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A World Bank photograph

Taking a holistic approach to water management

Down the ages, droughts and floods have stalked the vast Indian landmass. Often, these specters go hand in hand, playing out their macabre spectacle in rapid succession. For, many a time, after a long scorching summer parches the land, dark monsoon clouds roll in from the sea, and the heavens disgorge their largesse with an unrelenting fury.

Year in year out, droughts and floods take an unforgiving toll. Two-thirds of India is prone to droughts and one-eight is susceptible to floods. Surging flood waters afflict some 32 million people each year, robbing the economy of anything between Rs 6000 crore and Rs 12,000 crores. Drought affects a further 150 million people.



It's not so much a water crisis as a water management crisis

Clearly, India's complex hydrology calls for a holistic approach. For a start, floods are not caused by heavy rains alone. The situation is often compounded by weak water management systems, faulty urban design, or rivers that have been unduly constrained by bunds and encroachments.

Quite often, floods are caused by the sudden release of water from reservoirs. "Take the floods in Bihar in 2016, in Odisha in 2011, or the floods in the Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh in 1998 that affected more than 2 million people," says Gaur. "Most of these occurred in late August or September, when the reservoirs were full. When more rain fell, reservoir operators got just a few hours to release the excess water to prevent a breach, or else there would have been even more devastation downstream."

Although India as a whole is not a water scarce country, its water is unevenly distributed across both seasons and regions. Some areas have too much water while others have too little. And, not all the water is available when it is needed most.

Add to this the increasing intensity of droughts and floods, as well as a rapidly growing population, and the impacts of these twin specters is becoming larger by the day.

"With half of India's annual precipitation falling in just 15 rain-soaked days, droughts and floods are likely to remain a fact of life in the country," explains Anju Gaur, senior water specialist at the World Bank in New Delhi. "The only way out is to fundamentally change the way we manage things."

Below: Real time water level recorder in a river near Cuttack, Odisha



Extreme right:
*Measurement
of flow in
a river in Goa*

The main issue is that, until now, reservoir operators did not have the technological tools to help them take crucial decisions. Rather, they were required to abide by strict schedules for the release of water that were often laid down in colonial times.

“This is especially important when you are dealing with such large volumes of water, as even small mistakes can have huge consequences.”

If you can't measure it, you can't manage it

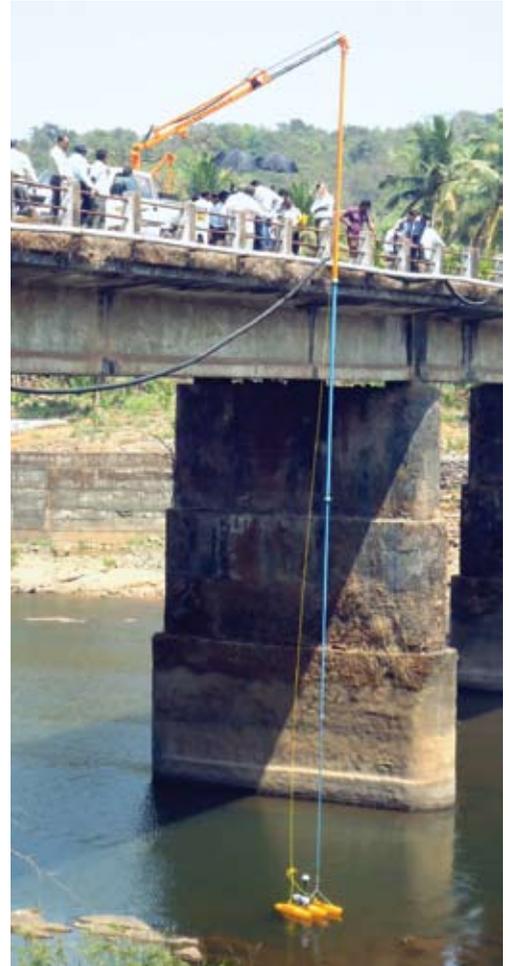
Now, for the first time in India, two hydrology projects – Hydrology I (1995-2003) and Hydrology II (2006-2014) – supported by the World Bank, have introduced new systems and technology that give reservoir managers an accurate picture of the water situation unfolding in their region.

These systems have also laid the foundation for a comprehensive knowledge base that can improve the overall management of water resources in the country. “Reliable data is a must for making better decisions,” says Gaur.

Right: *Flow
measurement
in small rivers
(Brahmaputra
tributary),
Assam*



Below: *Ground
Water tank from
Karnataka*





Above:
Discharge measurement through a cableway in Maharashtra

Making information travel faster than flood water

The first project – Hydrology 1 – focused on the peninsular states, where most rivers are straddled by a series of reservoirs (the Western Ghats in Maharashtra alone are dotted with more than 1,800 reservoirs and barrages of both large and medium sizes). The second project extended its reach to cover the two water-rich northern states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

To better manage water flows from these reservoirs, new systems now monitor all the important aspects of the hydro-meteorological cycle. Measurement begins high up in the catchments of rivers, where digital gauges measure how much rain or snow has fallen, how rapidly the snow is melting, the speed with which the water is flowing, how much silt has built up, how much water will reach the reservoir, how soon it will do so, and so on. Sensors in the field instantly transmit this information to data centres through satellite or mobile phone technology, enabling managers to

Below:
Automatic weather station in Bhakra catchment (at Madana)



form a clear picture of the water situation unfolding in their region.

While these systems have been installed across peninsular India, the Bhakra Beas and the Krishna-Bhima systems have gone a step further. They now have a modelling tool that helps them predict water flows into their reservoirs three days in advance. This means that the lead time for planning the release of water from these reservoirs has shot up from just hours to days.

“Earlier it took lots of manpower and at least 24 hours to process this information from the field. Not surprisingly, engineers often ended up doing a post-mortem of a flood rather than pre-empting one,” recalls Gaur. Now, whenever it rains heavily, reservoir managers can start releasing water slowly so that the reservoirs remain full while there is no risk to dam safety and no damage downstream.

Advance information is particularly important for the shorter peninsular rivers where it barely takes a few hours for the water to travel from the catchment to the reservoir. “Sangli town in Maharashtra, for instance, used to have flash floods whenever there was a sudden release of water from the Koyna dam upstream,” Gaur adds. “Now this no longer happens.”

These reservoir management systems, which cost a total of Rs 30 crores, have helped avert flood damages of over Rs. 238 crores. And, the results are there for all to see. In 2010, for instance, Punjab, a highly flood-prone state, experienced some of the worst floods in its history, taking a huge toll on life and property. But, in 2013, when the rivers were in similar spate, no floods took place and there was no damage. This is not to say that floods will no longer happen, explains Gaur. If the rains are unduly heavy, floods may well take place, but advance warning can certainly help save lives.

These systems can also help alleviate the harshest impact of droughts. “A full reservoir is the best cushion against a drought in the dry season,” says Gaur. “Thanks to these systems, 2015 was the first time that all the Krishna basin reservoirs in Maharashtra were full by the end of the monsoon.”



Above:
Real time water level recorder in Khadakwasla dam in Maharashtra

Right:
Real time water level measurement in a canal to monitor water use in Punjab

Below:
An equipment for measuring discharge



Mapping groundwater

With groundwater levels depleting at an alarming rate, the second project – Hydrology 2 – used advanced geophysical techniques with helicopter-borne instruments to pilot the mapping of aquifers in five states – Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The technology is not only much faster and more accurate than other methods, but is also much cheaper. “Groundwater modeling is an extremely complex subject,” explains Gaur. “Once the mapping is complete, we will get a much clearer picture of the groundwater resources in a region. It will also help in designing the best methods to recharge and manage this precious resource.”

Closer magnification can also throw up a host of new issues. “Until now our information was on a scale of 1:250,000. Once it is reduced to 1:50,000 or better, who knows what will come to light?” Gaur adds.

Since water quality has emerged as another critical issue, the second project also helped states identify where the quality of

groundwater has been affected by fluorides, nitrates, and other contaminants.

Monitoring water quality

The second hydrology project also piloted water quality monitoring in surface water sources. Thirteen real-time water quality monitoring stations were set up on the Ganga and Yamuna rivers. These stations proved extremely useful in maintaining water quality during the Kumbh Mela in 2013 when millions of people took the ritual dip in the holy river.



Real time readings from these stations helped determine when water needed to be released upstream on critical bathing days, and when it needed treatment. Today, these stations continue to play their role on both these rivers, especially upstream and downstream of the capital, Delhi. Given the usefulness of these stations, 111 more such stations are being planned along the main Ganga river.

Managing competing demands for water

The systems and technology introduced under the two hydrology projects have much broader applications too. “If we are to manage our exceedingly complex web of water resources effectively, we need to know how much water the country has, when it has it, and where it has it,” clarifies

Gaur. “Without accurate data on the existing water situation in the country, we are really shooting in the dark.”

Water data can also be a critical input in making development decisions. In Pune, for example, a planned tunnel between two reservoirs to improve the city’s water supply was abandoned for a simpler, better and cheaper solution.

Accurate water data also provides a scientific basis on which to manage competing demands for river water, especially as disputes are often sparked by the lack of correct information. “Accurate data can not only guide the sharing of river waters but also be used to better manage the fragile ecology of a river basin, help with better water resources planning and allocation during lean periods, design flood protection works, and so on,” explains Chabungbam Rajagopal Singh, water resources management specialist at the World Bank in New Delhi.

A third Hydrology project, supported by the World Bank, will now expand the water resources monitoring system to cover the entire country, including the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra-Barak river basins. Under this project, the Ministry of Water Resources will provide states with a grant to collect water data for each river, stream and reservoir in their territory.

The importance of sharing water data

“Importantly, we need to move beyond mere data collection to using it more effectively. For this, the willingness of organizations to open up their data and make it transparent will be the key, explains Gaur. In addition, water resources institutions will need to be brought under one umbrella with one single agency to manage both ground and surface water. Engineers and scientists will also need to evolve into water managers and take a river basin-wide approach to manage all water resources in an integrated manner. More importantly, riparian states and other stakeholders will need to come together to plan the allocation of river water during a dry year, a wet year and a year of normal rainfall, while being ready for climate change.

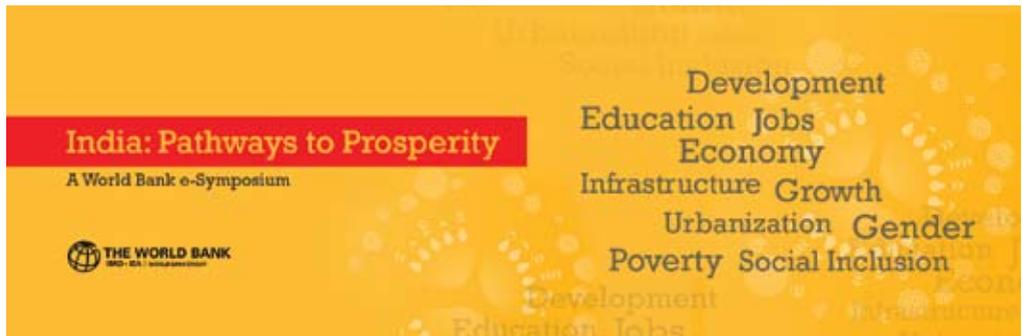
“Overall, the real and tangible benefits of the systems established under the two Hydrology projects include people whose lives, homes, and crops are saved due to improved flood forecasting, farmers who benefit from improved irrigation supplies, and children who do not fall ill or worse from drinking contaminated water,” said Halla Maher Qaddumi, senior water economist at the World Bank in New Delhi. “Over time, it is hoped that accurate water data will also help reduce conflict between people and states over shared water resources.” 

Leaders in Transparency

- The Central Water Commission has created a state of the art platform that publicly shares national level water data online.
- Maharashtra shares real time water information together with streamflow forecasts, and audits water use by various sectors for each major/ medium reservoir. This is published annually on the web.
- Others states too are devising interim arrangements to display water information and joining the central platform on water resources information, while still others are yet to follow.
- Transparency is equally important for groundwater too. For, unlike surface water bodies which are managed by the government, the management of groundwater lies primarily in the hands of the people. Andhra Pradesh has been the first off the block in this, posting monthly bulletins and real time information on the groundwater situation on the Chief Minister’s web portal.
- Gujarat too is conducting an in-depth analysis of the groundwater situation, particularly around the cities, to meet growing urban demand.
- Going forward both the centre and states will need to join hands to develop a sound national water resources information system and agree to make it accessible. 

Pathways to Prosperity

Poverty down, but 1 in 2 hangs by a thread



The sharp decline in poverty in India has been accompanied by a strong pattern of upward mobility, leading to an emerging middle class. Education, urban residence, and wage work have contributed to this higher-than-average upward mobility and lower downward mobility. Yet, a vast share of the population remains vulnerable to slipping back into poverty, suggesting that gains against poverty need to be deepened and made more secure. Scheduled Tribes stand out as a group that has fallen further behind, with one-third stuck in chronic poverty, says Peter Lanjouw and Rinku Murgai, Lead Economists, World Bank

India's strides in reducing poverty over the last two decades have received a lot of attention, including in this series. Between 1994 and 2012, the share of India's population living in poverty was halved, falling from 45 percent to 22 percent.

Let's now try to look at patterns that show how individuals transition into and out of poverty. We focus on how households transitioned into and out of poverty between 2005 and 2012 - the years for which the latest set of government data are available.[1]

In 2005, 37 percent of individuals in India were poor. By 2012, this had fallen to only one in five. In other words, roughly 15 percent of the population that was poor in 2005 was no longer poor by 2012. It is, however, plausible that while some individuals escaped poverty, others fell into it.

Movements out of poverty exceed shifts into poverty

% of Households		2012	
		Poor	Non-poor
2005	Poor	12.2	26.8
	Non-poor	7.0	54.0

Source: Authors' estimates using IHDS panel (2005, 2012)

The good news is that upward mobility has been the dominant trend. As one would expect, more people have moved up – out of poverty – than the other way around. As the table shows, nearly one-third of all households changed their poverty status between 2005 and 2012; this includes 27 percent who moved out of poverty and 7 percent who fell into it.

Less reassuringly, we find that many households that escaped poverty after 2005 still had consumption levels that were dangerously close to the poverty line in 2012. In other words, large numbers of those who managed to move out of poverty by 2012 are still vulnerable to slipping back; in fact they face a high risk of doing so.

A simple approach to defining vulnerability is by doubling the poverty line: all individuals who are above the regular poverty line but below this “double” line are defined as vulnerable.[2] By using this approach, we observe that about half of India's population was vulnerable in 2012, stuck between poverty and the relative stability



of the middle class. Indeed, the vulnerable continued to be the largest population group over the period. Their new-found position is precarious.

Vietnam provides an interesting contrast to India's experience. It is a middle income country that has been one of the strongest performers in poverty reduction. Both countries saw similar shares of the population moving out of poverty, and the vulnerable moving into the middle class. But downward mobility was also much more common in India, reflecting the still high levels of vulnerability to slipping back into poverty.

What makes it more likely for some poor families to move out of poverty while others are unable to do so? Where people live seems to matter, as living in urban areas is more likely to be associated with moving out of poverty. Characteristics such as educational attainment and engagement in salaried work are both positively correlated with higher-than-average chances of upward mobility and lower-than-average chances of moving downwards.

However, a worrisome finding is that Scheduled Tribes are harder to reach—they are less likely to move out of poverty and more likely to stay poor or fall into poverty. These differences between social groups cannot be fully explained by differences in household characteristics. Looking forward, poverty and vulnerability among ethnic minorities will remain a challenge for poverty reduction in India.

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Carlos Felipe Balcazar Salazar, Sonal Desai, Rinku Murgai and Ambar Narayan. (2016) "Why did Poverty Decline in India? A Nonparametric Decomposition Exercise." Policy Research Working Paper 7602, World Bank. 🌐

This blog was originally published in the Indian Express on 25th May, 2016.

Junaid Ahmad takes over as new Country Director for World Bank in India



Junaid Ahmad has taken over as the World Bank's new Country Director for India, replacing Onno Ruhl who completed his four-year term.

A Bangladeshi national, Junaid Ahmad, was formerly the Chief of Staff to World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim.

An economist by training, Ahmad brings with him broad development experience. After joining the World Bank in 1991 as a Young Professional, he worked on infrastructure development in Africa and Eastern Europe. He has since held several management positions, leading the Bank's program in diverse regions including Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as in India and South Asia.

Based in New Delhi between 2000 and 2005, Ahmad played a leading role across a number of sectors, both in India and the region. He led the Bank's Water and Sanitation Program for South Asia before being appointed to head its social development portfolio. Following this,

he steered the Bank's broader urban development program in India and South Asia. During this period Ahmad worked in the areas of infrastructure finance, dealing with the challenges of urbanization and city management, delivering services in federal systems, as well as on issues concerning local government reforms.

Prior to joining the President's office, Ahmad was a Senior Director at the World Bank, where he led the Bank's global engagement in the water sector. He was one of the first to be selected to this post through a global competition. Ahmad moved to this position after holding charge of sustainable development for the Bank's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region, where his work covered a broad array of sectors, ranging from agriculture, to the environment, to infrastructure.

Ahmad holds a PhD in Applied Economics from Stanford University, a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University, and a BA in Economics from Brown University. 

Recent Project Approvals

Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Program in India



The World Bank Board has approved an additional grant of \$22.93 million to further enhance the installed capacity of Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic (GRPV) Program and strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions for widespread installation of GRPV.

The additional Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant will support the overall US\$625 million GRPV program approved by the World Bank Board earlier this year, and a total program investment of US\$915 million in solar rooftop developments. It will provide

incentives to the State Bank of India to lend to riskier categories of GRPV customers such as the non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to finance and install GRPV. It will also strengthen the investment climate for GRPV by building capacity of the main stakeholders involved in the expansion of GRPV.

Under the ongoing program, SBI is on-lending funds to solar PV developers and end-users, who wish to invest in mainly commercial and industrial rooftop PV systems. 🌍

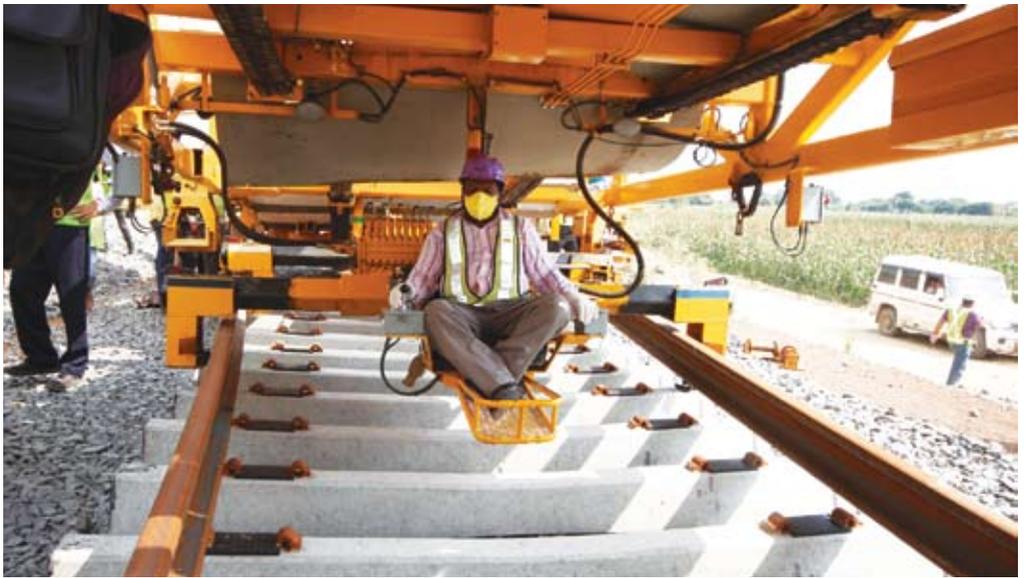


Recent Project Signings

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a US\$650 million agreement 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 north and eastern parts of India. The project was approved by the World Bank Board on June 30, 2015.

The loan and guarantee agreement for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project was signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; M.K. Mittal, Director, Finance, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation (DFCCIL) and Hisham Abdo, Operations Manager and Acting Country Director, World Bank India, on behalf of the World Bank. 



Book Launch

A new World Bank report, *South Asia's Turn: Policies to Boost Competitiveness and Create the Next Export Powerhouse*, was launched in Delhi recently.

The report says South Asia could become the fastest growing exporting region of the world if India and its South Asian neighbors enhance the productivity of their firms by at least two percentage points each year.

To do that, the report suggests a set of policy actions not only aimed at improving the business environment, but more importantly draws attention to less-well-researched areas such as the role of cities and clusters,

global value chains (GVC), and firms' abilities to innovate and efficiently use resources, including technology.

The region's great potential to boost its competitiveness is evidenced through a number of examples in the report, ranging from the highly successful apparel industries in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to India's auto parts, agribusiness, software and Business Processing Offshoring (BPO) sectors. India in particular has made substantial progress in developing top of the value chain capabilities, such as becoming a global research and development (R&D) hub for major auto-parts and electronics producers. 

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.

National Vector Borne Disease Control & Polio Eradication Support Project



Context

In the early 2000, Vector-borne diseases (VBD) posed immense public health concerns and was a major cause of significant morbidity and mortality in India. At the time of project preparation, over 90 percent of the reported two million Malaria cases was predominately from 11 states in India, while nearly all 40,000 new Kala Azar cases reported every year were from the states of Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The government had developed new policies for vector borne disease control focusing on new prevention, diagnostic and treatment approaches for Malaria and Kala Azar. It was also in need of financial support for multi-year purchase of the polio vaccine. The Bank agreed to support India in these efforts.

Project Development Objectives

The Project was to enhance the effectiveness

National Vector Borne Disease Control & Polio Eradication Support Project

Approval Date:	31 July, 2008
Closing Date:	31 December, 2013
Total Project Cost	US\$ 263 million
Bank Financing:	US\$ 234 million
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Health and Family welfare
Outcome:	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Low/Negligible
Overall Bank Performance:	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Unsatisfactory

of government response to control Malaria, eliminate Kala Azar and eradicate polio.

This was to be achieved by

- (a) increasing the number of people benefiting from effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment services for Malaria and Kala Azar;
- (b) strengthening central and state capacities for evidence-based policy development, strategic planning, and program management for effective control of vector-borne diseases; and
- (c) securing the timely supply of polio vaccines.

Main Beneficiaries

The project was meant to benefit the poorest, most remote and disenfranchised populations in India who were affected by Malaria and Kala Azar.

Achievements

Malaria: Overall, the Joint Monitoring Mission estimated that the project provided Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) protection to approximately 16.6 million people (assuming 2.5 persons protected by each LLIN purchased); 24.1 million rapid diagnostic tests for Malaria and 2.81 million courses of Artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) for the treatment of *P. Falciparum* Malaria. There was improved access to

and use of Malaria prevention and control services. In phase I project states (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa) nearly 77 percent of fever cases (against a target of 70 percent) were tested and results declared within 24 hrs of contracting fever. Close to 57 percent of individuals in project areas used LLIN (against a target of 50 percent).

The JMM also found reliable enough trends to concur that the objective of a 40 percent reduction in Malaria morbidity between 2006 and 2012 was achieved, although the actual number of Malaria cases is estimated to be six times higher than the number reported as many people with fever do not seek care from public facilities. With respect to Malaria mortality, the goal of reducing deaths by 50 percent by 2010 (compared to 2002) was achieved by 2013. Unfortunately, monitoring of mortality is weak and the number of actual deaths due to Malaria may be between 15 to 50 times the actual numbers reported.

Kala Azar: Kala Azar was and remains a significant public health problem primarily in three states – Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The project facilitated major reforms in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of Kala Azar. New diagnostic techniques for Kala Azar accelerated progress towards the control of the disease. About 59 percent of



blocks in the affected states achieved the goal of less than 1 case per 10,000 of Kala Azar and more than 97 percent of Kala Azar endemic areas were covered with insecticide spray.

Polio: The World Bank contribution to the polio elimination program in India was in the form of financing for commodities. While the polio elimination program was well monitored and supervised, adequate buffer stocks of vaccines were not available. The project financed the procurement of the oral polio vaccine (OPV) worth approximately US\$167 million. After three years with no new polio infections and the maintenance of an incredibly high rate of vaccination coverage even in the most remote areas (99 percent), India was declared and certified polio free on March 29, 2014.

Lessons Learnt

Community-based service delivery models can work – community-based health workers with limited training can effectively manage and monitor health interventions to populations with poor social, geographic or economic access to publicly provided health services.

The introduction of innovations requires a high level of capacity building for the implementing agency and financing for

external technical support within the project budget.

Operational research can have a very positive impact on policy and practice. By incorporating routine monitoring, testing and impact evaluation into the M&E framework for the project provided opportunity to use newly introduced diagnostic technologies and treatment regimens.

Substantive alterations to projects late in the preparation process should be avoided. Although the polio component of the project contributed to the elimination of polio in India, there was not adequate opportunity for appraisal of the component which may have led to an overestimation of the required budget.

Monitoring and evaluation needs to be given highest priority. Delays and in some cases lack of data due to surveys not conducted during the term of the project resulted in not being able to calculate the impact and outcome of the project and the way forward. Projects need controls in place to ensure that key monitoring and evaluation activities are conducted in a timely manner. 🌐



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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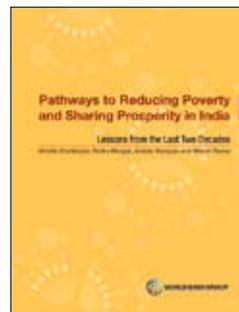
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India Publications

Pathways to Reducing Poverty and Sharing Prosperity in India: Lessons from the Last Two Decades



By Urmila Chatterjee, Rinku Murgai, Ambar Narayan and Martin Ram

India is uniquely placed to help reduce global poverty and boost prosperity. The country has the largest number of poor people in the world, as well as the largest number of

people who have recently escaped poverty. There is an emerging middle class but the majority of people are still vulnerable to falling back into poverty. What lessons do the past two decades offer for what it will take for the country to sustain progress and bring about deeper changes? This synthesis brings together the key insights from extensive and in-depth research conducted by the World Bank on India's experience in reducing poverty and sharing prosperity over the last two decades.

India: Policy Research Working Papers

WPS 7829

Can the culture of honor lead to inefficient conventions? Experimental evidence from India

By Benjamin A. Brooks, Karla Hoff and Priyanka Pandey

The paper reports the results of a field experiment in India in which pairs of men from high and low castes repeatedly played a coordination game of common interest. Low-caste pairs overwhelmingly coordinated on the efficient equilibrium, consistent with earlier findings. In contrast, high-caste pairs coordinated on the efficient equilibrium at a much lower rate, with only 47 percent in efficient coordination in the final period of the experiment.

The study traces the divergence in outcomes to how an individual responds to the low payoff he obtains

when he attempts efficient coordination but his partner does not. After this event, high-caste men are significantly less likely than low-caste men to continue trying for efficiency.

WPS 7820

Are labor supply decisions consistent with neoclassical preferences? Evidence from Indian boat owners

By Xavier Gine, Monica Martinez-Bravo and Marian Vidal-Fernandez

This paper studies the labor supply of South Indian boat owners using daily labor participation decisions of 249 boat owners during seven years. It tests the standard neoclassical model of labor supply, which predicts that individuals should be more likely to work when earnings are temporarily high and recent accumulated earnings should play no role in the participation decision. It finds that boat owners' labor participation depends positively on expected earnings but also on recent accumulated earnings, albeit weakly.

WPS 7814

Will market competition trump gender discrimination in India?

By Syed Ejaz Ghani, Arti Grover, Sari Kerr and William Robert Kerr

This paper studies the pattern of female activity and gender segmentation in the Indian manufacturing and services sectors. Although the share of women entrepreneurs and employees is larger in manufacturing than in services, segmentation based on gender is pervasive in both sectors. In spite of competition-inducing reforms such as investment in Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) highways, trade liberalization and domestic reforms that India undertook since the turn of the century, this pattern of gender based segmentation has not subsided over the years.

South Asia Publications

South Asia's Turn: Policies to Boost Competitiveness and Create the Next Export Powerhouse



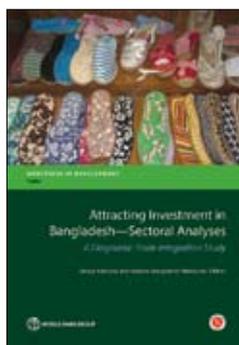
By Gladys Lopez-Acevedo, Denis Medvedev and Vincent Palmade
Available On-line
Published: October 2016

South Asia has a huge need to create more and better jobs for a growing population – especially in the manufacturing industries

where it is underperforming as compared to East Asia.

This report suggests a set of policy actions not only aimed at improving the business environment, but more importantly draws attention to less-well-researched areas such as the role of cities and clusters, global value chains (GVC), and firms' abilities to innovate and efficiently use resources, including technology.

Attracting Investment in Bangladesh—Sectoral Analyses: A Diagnostic Trade Integration Study



By Sanjay Kathuria and Mariem Mezghenni Malouche

Available On-line

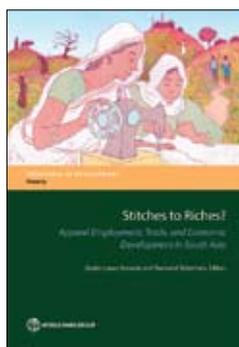
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Pages: 329

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ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-0925-5

This is volume 3 of a three-volume publication on Bangladesh's trade prospects. It provides in-depth analysis of eight different manufacturing and services sectors of the Bangladeshi economy, which help to illustrate the thematic analysis of volume 2 and ground it in sector experiences. Besides pointing to cross-cutting themes, the analysis also highlights some specific issues and actions that could help relieve constraints to faster export growth in these sectors.

Apparel in South Asia: Based on the "Stitches to Riches" report



By Gladys Lopez-Acevedo and Raymond Robertson

Available On-line

Published: October 2016
Pages: 34

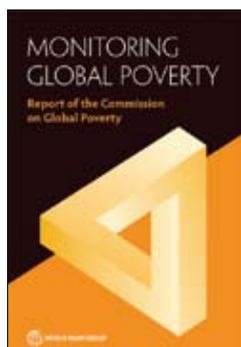
Apparel is the largest labor-intensive manufacturing industry in South Asia, and is a major employer of women. Although South Asia's apparel sector

benefits from many of the same favorable conditions as East Asia's, performance in South Asian apparel remains well below that of East Asia.

The objective of this study is to identify the policy changes necessary for South Asia to capitalize on this opportunity. The authors review the apparel sectors in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and compare them with Vietnam and China. The report uses quantitative data (analysis based on a gravity model, enterprise and buyer surveys) and qualitative information (interviews with leading firms) to identify changes in policies that would enable South Asia to meet the requirements of global buyers.

Other Publications

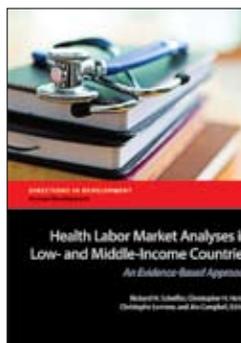
Monitoring Global Poverty: Report of the Commission on Global Poverty



By World Bank
Available On-line
Published: October 2016,
Pages: 263
ISBN (paper): 978-1-4648-0961-3
ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-0962-0
DOI: 10.1596/978-1-4648-0961-3

This report advises the Bank on the measurement and monitoring of global poverty on two areas: What should be the interpretation of the definition of extreme poverty, set in 2015 in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)-adjusted dollars a day per person? What choices should the World Bank make regarding complementary monetary and non-monetary poverty measures to be tracked and made available to policy-makers? How we answer the above questions can, therefore, have a major influence on the global economy.

Health Labor Market Analyses in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Evidence-Based Approach



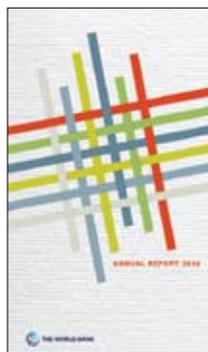
By Richard M. Scheffler, Christopher H. Herbst, Christophe Lemiere and Jim Campbell
Available On-line
Published: October 2016,
Pages: 289
ISBN (paper): 978-1-4648-0931-6
ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-0932-3

This book, produced jointly by the World Bank, the University of California, Berkeley, and the WHO, aims to provide decision-makers at sub-national, national, regional and global levels with additional insights into how to address their workforce challenges rather than describe them.

It highlights the need to understand the determinants of both the supply (numbers of health workers willing to work in the health sector) and the demand for health workers (resources available to hire health workers), how these interact, and how this interaction varies in different contexts.

This interaction will determine the availability of health personnel, their distribution as well as their performance levels, thus ensuring stronger health systems capable to deliver universal health coverage.

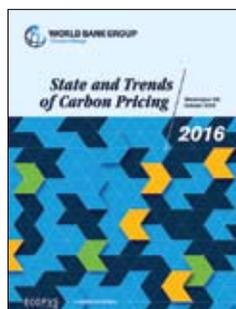
The World Bank Annual Report 2016



By World Bank
Available On-line
Published September 2016

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.

State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2016



By World Bank
Available On-line
Published: October 2016,
Pages: 136
ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-1001-5

This report gives an overview of existing and emerging carbon pricing instruments around the world, including national and subnational initiatives. Furthermore, it gives an overview of current corporate carbon pricing initiatives. Another key focus of the report is on the importance of aligning carbon pricing with the broader policy landscape.

The analysis provides lessons for policymakers on how to maximize synergies between climate mitigation and other related policies, while managing potential tensions and tradeoffs. It also provides new modelling analysis to demonstrate the crucial benefits that an international carbon market established under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement could provide.

A Guide to Warehouse Receipt Financing Reform: Legislative Reform



By World Bank
Available On-line
Published September 2016

The recommendations presented in this guide are based on the World Bank Group's experience in the warehousing sector, and particularly in the context

of agricultural commodities, the contributions of a number of experts in this field, existing literature, reform experience in a number of emerging market countries and the existing best practices in jurisdictions with efficient and generally accepted warehousing systems.

This Guide does not cover all aspects of warehouse law reform, which will vary depending on the form and substance of the existing legal system, but it aims at covering at least the minimum and most important elements of such a reform.

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Date 03 October 2016
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Report No. STEP 325 (Procurement Plan)

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Date 12 September 2016
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Report No. PIDA90443 (Project Information Document-Appraisal Stage)

Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project

Date 06 September 2016
Project ID P157054
Report No. STEP 237 (Procurement Plan)

Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project

Date 01 September 2016
Project ID P154283
Report No. SFG2423 (Environmental Assessment)

Forging Partnerships for Green Growth

By Jie-Ae Sohn



On the streets of Shimla, residents stare at a strange group of visitors. The group looks and acts different from other tourists to this hilly capital of India's mountain state of Himachal Pradesh. Not Indian, and definitely not the usual European retirees. Oh, and even stranger, the group starts taking photos of parking lots, trash cans, and the tiny alleys that snake up and down the city. That was how a group of global experts in a gamut of urban matters appeared to the citizens of Shimla. It was the group's first day in a town they had never seen, nor ever imagined they would visit. But here they were – experts at solid waste management, urban parking, public transportation, IT and city planning – at the request of the government of Himachal Pradesh (HP). The state, named after the soaring Himalayas, is seeking to protect its natural heritage by growing in a green and sustainable manner.

HP is renowned for its pleasant climes, verdant forests and snow-clad peaks that not only act as a carbon sink for India's burgeoning economy but also serve as a source of five perennial rivers that sustain the lives of million in the teeming plains below. The inspiration for the experts' visit came from the highest levels of the state government. Dr. Shrikant Baldi, the state's additional chief secretary, had visited Korea to attend a global green growth conference sponsored by the World Bank. There he saw the real-life application of strategies that his government needed to take their own green growth agenda forward.

Strange bedfellows you might think, Korea and Himachal Pradesh? Not in the least! Himachal Pradesh has in recent years successfully used three World Bank Development Policy Loans (DPLs) to

devise green and sustainable policies for its key revenue earning sectors. These include hydropower, tourism, and industry, and also cover rural development as the vast majority of the state's people live in rural areas and depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. The experts' recent trip was an extension of the Bank' long-term commitment to the state's green growth efforts.

Green growth and development are two sides of the same coin

Following the walkabout in the city, the global experts sat down with state officials in a packed auditorium to hash out some sustainable and green ways forward for the state.

It was a clear Saturday morning and, from the start, the state's high-level interest was evident. Sudhir Sharma, HP's Minister of Urban Development emphasized that this knowledge sharing exercise will not only help implant programs, but also give shape to a better tomorrow.

Dr. Shrikant Baldi pointed out that in Korea, green growth and development are not two different things, but are integrated. In HP too, the state's green growth policies are already bringing economic benefits.

HP officials showcased the advances they had made in natural capital accounting and the management of catchment areas. The Korean urban planning expert, on his part, explained how his country had integrated green policies into the building of smart cities.

The ubiquitous challenges of waste management and transport

Officials also discussed various green solutions to the ubiquitous challenges of urban growth such as waste management. HP is already the first state in India to completely ban plastic bags, and is now seeking to take this initiative to the next level. Not surprisingly, the Korean example provided them with much to learn from. It showed how landfills can be transformed from being unsightly and hazardous mounds of waste to becoming a source of clean energy, and having beautiful apartment complexes, parks and even golf courses built over them.

The final exchange focused on one of HP's biggest challenges, its transport system. Especially in the mountainous capital Shimla, which faces a severe lack of roads and parking facilities, officials are seeking long-term and sustainable solutions to the transport problem.

From the Blogworld

Seoul, like most modern cities, has also faced such issues. Its experience of transforming the public transport system to address these needs therefore provided new insights to HP officials.

The day was rounded off by the global experts sharing some further views and ideas. At the end of

the day, both sides, that had seemed so far apart just days ago, agreed to take forward a holistic and multi-sectoral approach to the urban challenges of today, especially in the beautiful mountain state of Himachal Pradesh. 🌐

Read more » <http://tinyurl.com/jlup3u>

It's possible to end poverty in South Asia

By Annette Dixon



October 17 is the international day to end poverty. There has been much progress toward this important milestone: the World Bank Group's latest numbers show that since 1990 nearly 1.1 billion

people have escaped extreme poverty. Between 2012 and 2013 alone, around 100 million people moved out of extreme poverty. That's around a quarter of a million people every day. This is cause for optimism.

But extreme poverty and the wrenching circumstances that accompany it persist. Half the world's extreme poor now live in sub-Saharan Africa, and another third live in South Asia. Worldwide nearly 800 million people were still living on less than \$1.90 a day in 2013, the latest year for which we have global numbers.

Half of these are children. Most have nearly no education. Many of the world's poor are living in fragile and conflict afflicted countries. In a world in which so many have so much, it is unacceptable that so many have so little. 🌐

Read more » <http://tinyurl.com/jpcavsu>

How geospatial technology can help cities plan for a sustainable future

By Xueman Wang

Many urban residents these days will find it hard to imagine a life without mobile apps that help us locate a restaurant, hail a cab, or find a subway station—usually in a matter of seconds. If geospatial technology and data already make our everyday lives this easier, imagine what they can do for our cities: for example, geospatial data on land-use change and built-up land expansion can provide for more responsive urban planning, while information on traffic conditions, road networks, and solid waste sites can help optimize management and enhance the quality of urban living.

However, information and data that provide the latest big picture on urban land and services often fail to keep up with rapid population growth and land expansion. This is especially the case for cities in developing countries—home to the fastest growing



urban and vulnerable populations. 🌐

Read more » <http://tinyurl.com/zpl9rad>

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