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About the photograph:

Young women working at a lingerie manufacturing unit in Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu

Photo courtesy: Shaju John

Skilled jobs help rural youth in Tamil Nadu fulfil long-cherished dreams

Born and raised in a thatched one-room hut in rural Tamil Nadu, 22 year-old Enita now spends her day amidst mounds of brightly colored lace, sewing fancy lingerie for the high-fashion stores of western capitals. A hint of jasmine fills the air and lilting Bollywood music keeps time with the gentle hum of machines on the air-conditioned factory floor.

Enita's life stands in marked contrast to her mother's. The older woman still toils under the harsh Indian sun doing strenuous manual labor under a government-sponsored employment program. The vast gulf between the women's lives is a harbinger of the change that is sweeping across large parts of Tamil Nadu in just one generation.

The young woman's manufacturing job has turned the family's fortunes around. In four years, she has put together a handsome dowry for her older sister and is now paying the college expenses for her younger sibling. "Had I remained at home, I would have been married by now and had two children," Enita said.

Instead, she is proud of being the family's chief breadwinner after her father, a farm laborer, died leaving a penniless wife and three daughters. "Once my younger sister is on her feet, I'll save for my own dowry," Enita said brightly. Like her peers, she is certain that the dowry will help her find a better match in the marriage market and give a good start to her wedded life thereafter.

Enita's story is far from unique in this rapidly growing industrial belt around Chennai. It plays out time and again in the lives of the 1,200 or so young women who share the dorm with her at Intimate Fashion, a lingerie manufacturer in Kanchipuram district, as well as in the lives of the thousands of others working in similar garment manufacturing units nearby.

The girls' wages help fulfil small aspirations and long-cherished dreams. Most families



first spend on better food, or replace thatched huts with brick-and-mortar homes. While the younger girls usually hand their ATM cards to their mothers, the older women put aside their earnings to give their children the best education they can, often forfeiting simple comforts like buying a fridge despite the searing tropical heat.



At first, poor rural families were reluctant to send their daughters to work in manufacturing industries far away. Now these working girls enjoy a new respect in their villages and have become role models for others to follow.

Once their 3-month period of intensive training is complete, boys with a primary education will have the skills to work as masons on the most complex construction sites in India or abroad using the latest technology.

- The lack of employable skills keeps poor rural youth trapped in poverty
- The project is helping boys and girls build skills and connect with new job opportunities
- Since 2005, the project has helped place some 240,000 young people in skilled employment; 46 percent of them are girls



Skilled jobs – the best way to transform rural lives

“Skilled jobs are enabling poor rural families to change their lives forever,” said R.V. Shajeevana, additional project director for the World Bank-supported rural livelihoods project in the state. “But while landless laborers want their children to move out of penurious lives in agriculture, they don’t know how to go about it and lack the skills to do so.”

This is where the World Bank-supported project – aptly named ‘Pudhu Vaazhvu’ or ‘new life’ in Tamil – comes in. In a win-win situation, the project draws on its vast database of poor rural youth, focusing first on school drop-outs, and links them up

with better-paying jobs in the new economy through job fairs and recruitment drives.

It also makes it easier for employers to find steady workers in one of the state’s most industrialized regions, where attrition rates have touched all-time highs. “Earlier, most of our workers came from the villages around, and company buses fetched them from a 30 km radius,” said Malarvannan Fernando, the human resources head at the lingerie manufacturer.

“But since 2005, when industries like Samsung, Nokia etc. set up here, it has become extremely difficult to find good workers because people can get jobs close to home. Our buses now cover a 90 km radius, and our dorm girls come from as far as 350 km away.”





Girls in the garment industry earn Rs. 6,000 a month in addition to free food, travel, medical expenses, plus overtime, bonuses and other small perks – a substantial sum for impoverished rural families.

Once their 3-month period of intensive training is complete, boys with a primary education will have the skills to work as masons on the most complex construction sites in India or abroad using the latest technology.

Training the boys

The boys too have a host of new economic opportunities. At engineering major Larsen & Toubros's training institute in neighboring Thiruvallur district, twenty three year old Selva Kumar, from a poor tribal family, is

undergoing three months of intensive training in masonry. Once the training is complete, Kumar – who has a primary education – will be able to work on the most complex construction sites in India or abroad using the latest technology. Until then, Kumar is enjoying wearing the first pair of shoes he has ever owned.

Dr. M.V. Venkatesan, the institute's principal, emphasizes the importance of developing modern-day skills among India's rural youth: "Skills training is essential if India is to compete in today's globalized world. The project works by reaching out to the most needy. They are the ones who will benefit the most and are likely to stay on in the 7 trades we teach – carpenters, electricians, bar-benders, welders among them."

Till date, the project has helped place some 240,000 young people in skilled employment across a broad range of industries; 46 percent of them have been girls.

Shaping generations to come

Most girls in the garment industry who live in lodgings provided by their employers will work for four years or so until they marry and dorm living is no longer feasible. Employers therefore offer spoken English and other classes so that the girls, once used to earning, can continue to work in the future.





The working years change the girls forever. “They are confident, can speak up for themselves, and look back on this as one of the happiest times in their lives. They are also more aware of their health and personal hygiene, and tend to marry later, have fewer children, and space out their pregnancies,” said Shajeevana, explaining how the girls’ experience is reshaping social norms and impacting future generations.

Not surprisingly, mothers, grandmothers, and aunts wish they too had had these opportunities when they were young. 🌍



Forum for Knowledge Exchange

Is that surgery really necessary? Ensuring the medical necessity of care



The World Bank's forum for knowledge exchange between India's major public health insurers – the Government Sponsored Health Insurance Schemes (GSHIS) is part of a series conceptualized by the World Bank's India health team in collaboration with the World Bank Institute. The event was co-organized with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Medical overuse has become an epidemic worldwide. It is estimated to cost \$250-300 billion annually in the U.S alone. Overuse is evident in India too. Hospitalization rates in private voluntary health insurance are two to three times the national average.

Policy, regulatory and insurance based solutions, including the creation of a strong primary care system, are required to stem this trend. Prescribing unnecessary medical tests, procedures, hospitalizations and surgeries has become an epidemic worldwide. The rates of caesarian sections, for instance, vary widely. While globally the C section rate in public hospitals is 10 percent, it reaches an alarming 98 percent in Brazil's private hospitals, and 40 percent in private hospitals worldwide.

Similarly, the treatment for cardiovascular disease shows unwarranted variations. Studies conducted across 23 countries found that the use of angiography in Europe, for example, showed a 13-fold range of variation. In the US alone, unnecessary medical care costs \$250-300 billion annually by conservative estimates. Another growing danger is the worldwide overuse of antibiotics that is causing a surge in hard-to-treat bugs.

'Medical overuse', as it is known, is emerging as a serious issue in India too, especially as more people can afford to pay for medical interventions due to increasing access to insurance cover. For instance, individuals in India with private voluntary health insurance are two to three times more likely to be

hospitalized than the national average. Many of these interventions deliver only marginal benefits and can actually harm the patients, leading to unnecessary suffering, especially among the frail and elderly.

Soon, many more people will be able to afford healthcare as the government ramps up medical coverage for poor households. Therefore India urgently needs to learn from the experience of other countries and build in checks against this hazard, especially as it allocates a growing share of scarce public resources for medical insurance.

“This is a critical time for India since the country is in the midst of building a healthcare system which will set conditions for decades to follow,” said Somil Nagpal, senior health specialist with the World Bank in India.

To draw attention to this crucial issue, the World Bank devoted one session at its eighth forum for knowledge exchange between India’s major public health insurers for finding ways to ensure the medical necessity of care.

“Our goal must be to do much for the patient, and as little as possible to the patient,” said Dr Vikas Saini, setting the stage for the discussions with a quote from his mentor, the nobel laureate Dr. Bernard Lown. Dr. Saini

is a faculty member at the Harvard Medical School and president of the Lown Institute, a Massachusetts based group that works to increase access to healthcare and limit unnecessary treatments.

This was the first time in India that such a broad range of stakeholders – including senior policymakers, health insurers, industry leaders and academicians from across the country had come together for this purpose.

What has led to overuse?

High levels of unwarranted medical interventions have led to a groundswell of international activity to identify and reduce this hazard. Many factors that drive this trend have been identified globally. These include: the culture of ‘more medical intervention is better’; the slavish use of medical technology even when it is not necessary; defensive medicine or ‘playing it safe’ by prescribing additional tests or treatment; failure to counsel the patients adequately about the risks and benefits of treatment and the other options available; aggressive marketing of services by hospitals, pharmaceutical firms and the medical device industry; incentives inherent in the way providers are paid for their services; and the growing demand by patients for medical interventions.



There is also a growing recognition of the unnecessary costs this imposes on the economy. For instance, it often leads to overinvestment in tertiary care and expensive medical technologies, at the expense of investments in the primary healthcare system, a more cost-effective means of care and prevention. In addition, it causes neglect of the social factors contributing to ill health, like access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Possible solutions

At the conference, the high-level panel of experts proposed possible solutions: create a strong primary care system that promotes preventive healthcare and reduces unnecessary referrals to specialists; increase public awareness about the dangers of overuse so that patients understand that 'more' treatment is not always 'better' treatment; and place greater emphasis on professional ethics during medical education.

For insurers, there needs to be greater attention to prior authorization, although it is critical to also ensure that patients are not denied required medical care. A change in payment systems would ensure that providers are not incentivized for more interventions. A review of utilization patterns

and public reporting of variations in practice and outcomes will help create transparency.

For regulators, surveillance for insurance fraud, and the systematic assessment of costs and effectiveness before introducing coverage for new drugs or technology, also called Health Technology Assessment (HTA), was suggested.

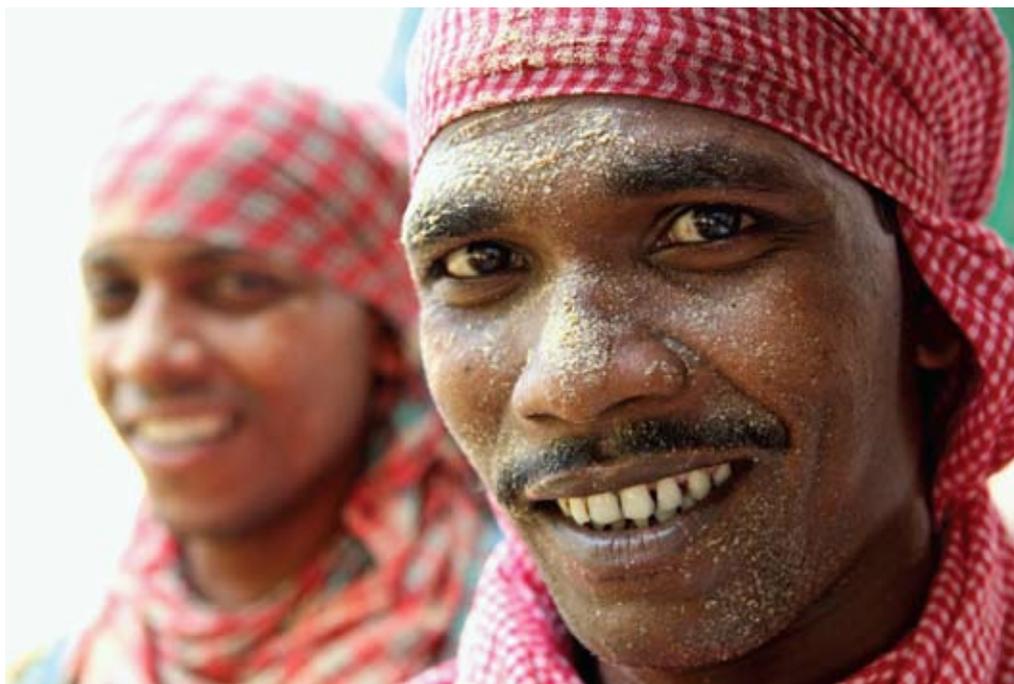
The policy options suggested included implementation of clinical guidelines to promote consistency, and a change in the way doctors and health care providers are remunerated so that they neither over-prescribe tests and procedures nor under-prescribe them.

Moreover, India needs to leverage available data and invest in HTA to help preempt unnecessary care, and optimize the utilization of resources.

A concerted effort against medical overuse, involving all stakeholders in the sector, which is already happening elsewhere in the world, is equally relevant in India. The discussions in the World Bank's forum were a catalytic effort towards this cause, and the enthusiastic support of the country's health sector luminaries augurs well for this becoming a sustained movement. 🌐



Which labor reforms will make a difference?



There is merit in simplifying India's labor regulations. With 44 national laws and hundreds of state-level amendments, the cost of compliance may simply be too high. Moreover, such complexity almost invites corrupt behavior by both labor inspectors and firm managers, says Martin G. Rama, World Bank's Chief Economist for the South Asia Region

Labor policy reform is a priority for India's new government. Recently, Vasundhara Raje, chief minister of Rajasthan, announced changes to three pieces of labor regulation. Almost at the same time, the ministry of labor called for opinions on how to amend a number of labor-related legislations.

With almost one million entrants to the workforce every year, India needs huge job creation. Not any jobs, but those that will take India's aspiring youth to middle-class living standards.

So far, creation of modern, formal sector jobs has been confined to dynamic sectors like business processing outsourcing.

But these jobs cannot absorb such numbers. And they are out of reach for the majority of young people with less than complete

secondary education. For them, the hope is formal employment in light manufacturing industries or in modern retail.

Whether India's labor regulation has impeded the creation of more formal jobs in labor-intensive sectors has been hotly debated. The World Development Report 2013: Jobs undertook a thorough review of empirical analyses on the effects of minimum wages, mandated benefits, social insurance and collective representation around the world.

The picture that emerged was one of a "plateau" with a cliff at each end. Both extreme flexibility and extreme rigidity are associated with poor economic outcomes. The review also highlighted that more "pro-labor" regulation tends to benefit workers who have a job at the expense of capital owners.

But it also tends to favor male middle-aged workers over women and younger workers. Interestingly, South Asia is well-represented at both ends of the “plateau”. The Rana Plaza tragedy in Bangladesh is an example of the damage triggered by the neglect of basic health and safety standards. India appears to be off the other cliff. But this is not so across the board.

Minimum wages represent about 28 per cent of average wages in India, compared to 29 per cent in China and Vietnam, 34 per cent in Malaysia and 38 per cent in Brazil. Work hours are capped at 48 per week, the same as in Malaysia and Vietnam, but substantially above the 40 allowed in China and Russia. And paid maternity leave—at 12 weeks—is shorter than in most comparator countries: Colombia (14 weeks) and Brazil (17); only in Malaysia is maternity leave shorter. India stands out in its procedures to dismiss workers.

The issue is not the level of severance pay. Firms are required to pay separated workers half a month’s pay for every year of continuous employment, less than in comparator countries. But only India requires firms to seek government permission before dismissing individual workers. Complex, time-consuming and non-transparent dispute resolution procedures add to dismissal costs.

And norms are far stricter for firms with 100 workers or more. Large firms must notify workers three months before dismissal, regardless of the worker’s tenure.

Moreover, firms are obliged to pay wages during the sometimes endless period of dispute proceedings. There is merit in simplifying India’s labor regulations. With 44 national laws and hundreds of state-level amendments, the cost of compliance may simply be too high. Moreover, such complexity almost invites corrupt behavior by both labor inspectors and firm managers.

But revamping such a massive legal architecture could easily become controversial, as was the case before. Even if the revamping were to succeed, it is bound to be a lengthy process and the demographic wave will not be waiting. India needs jobs now! Hence, our practical suggestion: to exempt all new formal sector hires, regardless of firm size, from the restrictive aspects of Chapter V in the Industrial Disputes Act.

This would give peace of mind to those currently employed—and the trade unions representing them—that their contracts are not being affected. It should also reassure firms that they can expand without being stuck with redundant labor if things go wrong.

And it will give newly-hired workers the same other benefits as formal sector workers: minimum wages, length of the work week, paid maternity leave, etc. This should be a reform without losers, hence without enemies. And it can be adopted without delay. 🌐

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ICR Update

This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Reports (ICR) of recently-closed World Bank projects. 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.

Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project



Context

Rajasthan is below the national average on most health indicators. Communicable diseases and prenatal and maternal mortality accounted for about 50 percent of the deaths in the state. There was insufficient integration of health, family welfare and disease control programs. Lack of adequate and trained manpower and weak management of human resources was a statewide concern, especially in the tribal and hard-to-reach areas. Furthermore, investment in the health sector had been declining for decades.

Objectives

The objective was to increase access to health care by upgrading healthcare facilities for poor (BPL) and underserved communities in remote areas as well as improve the effectiveness of health care through strengthened institutional development.

Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project	
Approval Date:	11 March, 2004
Closing Date:	30 September, 2011
Total Project Cost:	US\$M 95.32
Bank Financing:	US\$M 75.72
Implementing Agency:	Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Rajasthan
Outcome:	Moderately Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Moderate
Overall Bank Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory

Beneficiaries

The project targeted households below the poverty line (BPL) and scheduled tribes (ST). About 28 district hospitals, 23 sub-district hospitals, 185 community health centers, and 2 block-level primary health centers were identified for renovation and interventions such as training, health care waste management and health management information services (HMIS) improvement. This was expected to directly benefit an additional 3 million patients annually through the improvement and expansion of facilities.

Achievements

Based on data from 238 project facilities, access to secondary care services by disadvantaged groups showed steady progress over the project implementation period. The percentage of BPL patients receiving treatment more than doubled between 2006 and 2011.

The proportion of the 185 project-supported Community Health Centers (CHC) that undertook more than ten deliveries a month increased dramatically from a baseline of 60 percent in 2006 to 96.6 percent in June 2011, well exceeding the target of 90 percent. The proportion of staff positions filled in project facilities exceeded the 90 percent target for nurses/ANMs (at 117 percent), as well as for lab technicians (91.5 percent), but not for doctors (64.3 percent).

Surveys of patient perceptions from 2008 and 2011 suggest relatively stable patient perceptions, with some deterioration in the perception of nurses' performance, in contrast to the expectation that the project would improve patient satisfaction. Between 2005 and 2011, the average number of maternal deaths per facility fell dramatically by about one third. Overall, there was strong evidence of improvements in the quality and effectiveness of care over the project period.

The project contributed to the strengthening of institutional capacity at many levels. Working in close collaboration with the NRHM (National Renewal Health Mission) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) helped build their capacity.

Lessons Learnt

- Capacity of the staff handling procurement issues in project management units and procurement support agencies needs to be more rigorously assessed.
- Human resource constraints, both at project management and at facility level, need to be explicitly considered in project preparation.
- Monitoring and evaluation arrangements should receive more priority so that project performance can be correctly measured.



Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project



Context

The tsunami of December 26, 2004 caused extensive and severe damage along a 2,260 km stretch of coastline in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, as well as in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. An estimated 2.7 million people were affected by the disaster. The majority was from fishing communities (80 percent), the remainder worked in agriculture (15 percent), and small and micro enterprises (5 percent).

Objectives

The main objective of the project was to support the efforts of the Governments of India, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to revive livelihoods and promote recovery in the tsunami-affected areas in the short-term and to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities to a range of natural hazards such as cyclone, storm surge, flood and tsunami over the longer term.

Beneficiaries

The expected beneficiaries of the project included people whose houses were destroyed or damaged by tsunami (Tamil Nadu & Puducherry), and those living in vulnerable houses (Tamil Nadu); Tsunami-affected families who depended for their livelihoods on fisheries, agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry; and coastal communities who did not have access to evacuation shelters and early warning systems in Tamil Nadu.

The project was restructured three times during implementation and finally closed in December 2011 instead of the scheduled date of April 30, 2008.

Achievements

At the time of credit closing, many activities both in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were making good progress in implementation.

In Tamil Nadu

- About 4,500 ready built tenements were purchased and made available to the tsunami-affected people.
- In 18 tsunami-affected town panchayats covering 57 habitations, the infrastructure works – reconstruction of public buildings, roads, street lighting, and electricity connections – were completed. About 40,000 tsunami-affected people benefited.

Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project

Approval Date:	3 May, 2005
Closing Date:	31 December, 2011
Total Project Cost:	US\$M 186.5
Bank Financing:	US\$M 161.53
Implementing Agency:	Government of Tamil Nadu, Government of Puducherry
Outcome:	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Tamil Nadu: Negligible to Low Puducherry : High
Overall Bank Performance:	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Unsatisfactory

- Roads, drains, water supply connections and public buildings were provided in five tsunami-affected municipalities.
- Electricity connections in houses and street light connections were completed in 200 tsunami-affected villages.
- Repair of damaged dwellings was completed in two districts.

Livelihoods of tsunami-affected families were restored through the following:

- **Agriculture:** Through formation of self-help groups, various activities were completed: sand-cast agricultural lands were reclaimed, agriculture machinery, equipment, and drip irrigation sets were supplied, planned small-scale surface water harvesting/storage structures were completed, training programs on livelihood restoration and public awareness were conducted. About 13,500 farmers benefited from these programs.
- **Horticulture:** About 670 ha of horticultural lands were reclaimed with the participation of about 170 SHGs.
- **Animal Husbandry:** Equipment for surgical, diagnostic, breeding, and laboratory purposes for treating livestock were given to government veterinary dispensaries.
- **Forestry:** With community involvement, about 5,400 ha of forest shelter belts and mangroves were established and maintained.

Housing and related infrastructure to the tsunami-affected in Chennai was provided through the following:

- Construction of about 3,600 tenements along with water supply and sewerage works was completed.
- About 2,500 temporary shelters were constructed at Marina. Of these, 1,200 shelters are occupied by residents who agreed for the construction of permanent tenements.
- In the Marina Reconstruction Scheme, activities were possible only in one of the two identified locations: (a) Nochikuppam-Nochinagar and (b) Domminkuppam-Selvarajapuram. In the first location, about 600 tenements were completed in Nochinagar and no construction was

possible in Nochikuppam due to a lack of community consensus.

In the Restoration of Livelihoods component, the Fisheries Department undertook the modernization of fishing harbors, opening of selected river bar mouths, establishing fish landing centres and installing a tube ice plant. Substantive time was taken in obtaining various statutory clearances. In the Vulnerability Reduction of Coastal Communities (VRCC) component, about 4,200 houses out of the planned 14,500 houses were completed. Preparation for evacuation shelters, evacuation routes and early warning systems started but no construction took place at the time of the closure of this project.

In Puducherry

Under the housing reconstruction component, about 1,750 houses were planned. Out of these, 300 houses at Nallavadu, a relocation site, was at an advanced stage of completion. Of the remaining, about 550 houses were completed through beneficiary-driven approach, which has established itself as a viable alternative particularly for in-situ housing reconstruction.

In the Livelihood Restoration component, fisheries-related activities – work shelters, fish markets, and fishing harbors – were initiated but not completed. As a result, the objective of improving livelihood opportunities of potential beneficiaries was not achieved.

Lessons Learnt

- Time-frame planning has to be realistic.
- A simple project design is preferable.
- There should be flexibility in project design and frequent review.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on implementation coordination.
- All components must be simultaneously implemented.
- Local support team is a must.
- A new project should have been considered as an alternative to restructuring.
- Decision on credit closure/extension should be taken in advance. 🌐

Chlorofluorocarbon Production Sector Gradual Phaseout Project (ODSIII)

Context

India was required to stop chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) production by 2010, and being the second largest CFC producer in the world after China, India's achievement was seen as a major milestone in achieving the global environmental objective with regards to helping restore the stratospheric ozone layer.



Photo courtesy: NASA

Objective

The objective of this project was to support India's CFC production phase-out as mandated by the Montreal Protocol (MP).

Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries were the four CFC producers in India - SRF Limited (Rajasthan), Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited (GFL) (Gujarat), Navin Fluorine Industries (NFI) (Gujarat), and Chemplast Sanmar Limited (CSL) (Tamil Nadu). Based on the CFC Phase-out Annual Program, these enterprises received compensation tied to CFC production phased-out targets.

The Ozone Cell at the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and the project management unit in the MoEF benefited from institutional strengthening and stronger Management Information Systems (MIS).

Achievements

The government responded to the incentives in promoting accelerated phase-out under the Montreal Protocol and completed the 100 percent production phase-out as of August 1, 2008, which was 17 months ahead of schedule. It should be noted that, although CFC production was successfully phased-out, the government was unable to meet the requirement of documenting the CFC stockpile destruction and equipment dismantling.

The total production volume of the four manufacturers in any given year was always within the annual production target, ensuring compliance with production targets, in accordance with the Quota Order.

Lessons Learnt

- Staff continuity contributed to smooth implementation.
- More structured coordination between various multilateral and bilateral agencies enhances effectiveness.
- Project management unit needs to have greater and full autonomy. 🌐

Chlorofluorocarbon Production Sector Gradual Phaseout Project (ODSIII)

Approval Date:	9 June, 2000
Closing Date:	31 December, 2011
Total Project Cost:	US\$M 88.54
Montreal Protocol Investment Fund (Grant):	US\$M 87.47
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Environment Program, Ministry of Environment & Forests
Outcome:	Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Low or Negligible
Overall Bank Performance:	Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Satisfactory

Recent Project Approvals

Neeranchal National Watershed Project



The World Bank Board of Executive Director's has approved a \$178.50 million credit for the Neeranchal National Watershed Project to improve watershed management in rural rainfed areas.

The project will be implemented over a six-year period and will provide technical assistance to the Government of India's national Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP), which is the second largest watershed program in the world after China.

The project will strengthen the capacity of key national and state level institutions

currently implementing watershed programs such as the IWMP, including the central Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNAs) for more effective planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their programs.

It will support the preparation of integrated science-based, participatory watershed plans with a greater focus on water management. These plans will guide investments to improve more efficient use of water for agriculture, recharge local groundwater, and enhance the convergence of various programs in order to ensure more effective use of public resources.

The project will support IWMP activities in selected sites in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

It will cover about 400 sub-watersheds of about 5,000 ha each and reach approximately 482,000 farmer households and 2 million people. 



Recent Project Signings

Odisha Disaster Recovery Project



The Government of India, the Government of Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$153 million credit agreement to help the state build disaster resilient houses, improve the slums and city level infrastructure as well as strengthen its capacity for disaster risk management, following a severe cyclone that hit the state last year.

The credit agreement for the project was signed by Nilaya Mitash, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Upendra Nath Behera, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of Odisha, on behalf of the Government of Odisha; and Michael Haney, Operations Adviser for World Bank in India, on behalf of the World Bank.

World Bank assistance has been sought in rebuilding fully damaged houses, slum improvements, and capacity building of the disaster risk management institutions.

In the Ganjam district of Odisha alone, about 90,000 houses were partially or fully damaged along the coastal areas, many of them mud/thatched houses belonging to poor fishermen, farmers and landless.

Another key component of this project will be to improve urban infrastructure in Berhampur, the largest city in Ganjam district. 

National Highways Interconnectivity Improvement Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$500 million loan agreement for the National Highways Interconnectivity Improvement Project to help improve the national highway network's connectivity with economically lagging and remote areas.

The project will focus on three low-income states – Rajasthan, Bihar and Orissa – and on less developed regions in the states of Karnataka and West Bengal.

The agreement for the project was signed by Nilaya Mitash, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; and Michael Haney, World Bank's Operations Adviser in India, on behalf of the World Bank.

It will upgrade and widen about 1,120 km of existing single/intermediate lane National Highways to two-lane in Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan and in less developed regions of Karnataka and West Bengal. Other key components of the project include enhancing the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to better manage the highway network.

The project will also strengthen road safety management systems with the objective of reducing fatalities and serious injuries from road accidents in the country. 



World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim visits India



World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim visited India last month (July 2014) to learn more about the new government's development priorities. In his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Kim assured that the World Bank Group will bring increased financial and knowledge resources to help India return to the path of sustained high growth needed to bring prosperity to millions, especially the poor living in the lower income states.

"A large proportion of the world's poor live in India and we will give all our support to the government as it strives to create jobs and build prosperity for its people. The World

Bank Group will be ready to provide financial support worth \$15-18 billion over the next three years," President Kim said.

Discussions with the Prime Minister and other officials focused on the government's plans to re-ignite growth by investing in infrastructure to create jobs; providing quality education and skills training to 8 million young people who enter the labor force each year; and better equipping the 10 million people who leave rural areas for towns and cities each year for jobs.

He also visited the Bank-supported Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction

World Bank Group President with Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) and Finance & Defence Minister Arun Jaitley (right)





Left & below:
The President interacting with community members in Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu

Center:
The President with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa

Project which is helping women and other vulnerable groups' transition into urban livelihoods once they move from their villages into towns and cities. He met with young men and women from rural areas who are being trained to take up jobs in manufacturing industries.

"I met young people whose parents are farmers or agricultural laborers. Giving them basic job skills and connecting them to the right employers has allowed these young people to pull themselves and sometimes their entire families, out of extreme poverty," said Kim. "We often talk about the goal of removing poverty in a generation; I can now say I saw that happening." The project has helped place 240,000 people in steady jobs; 46 percent of these are young women.



World Bank Group assistance to India between July 2013 and June 2014 was \$6.4 billion. This comprised \$2 billion from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), \$3.1 billion from International Development Association (IDA), and \$100 million from the Clean Technology Fund that the World Bank Group administers. During that period, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) committed \$1.2 billion in India. 🌐



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India Publications

Rural Road Development in India: An assessment of distribution of PMGSY project benefits in three states by gender and ascribed social groups

Available: on-line

The World Bank, South Asia Sustainable Development Unit

English; 29 pages

Published June 12, 2014 by World Bank

Report No.: 88698

In 2000, the Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) with the primary objective of providing all-weather road connectivity (with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures operable throughout the year), to eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas.

This report summarizes findings based on data collected as part of the primary survey, coupled with findings from the qualitative survey which included focus group discussions (FGDs).

Food security and nutrition in tribal areas

By Varun Singh, Sonam Sen and Meera Chatterjee

Available: on-line

The World Bank, Knowledge & Information Services (ITSKI)

English; 136 pages

Published June 10, 2014

by World Bank

Report No.: ACS9269

This study seeks to examine how National Rural Livelihoods Mission or NRLM may be leveraged to improve food and nutrition security (FNS) in tribal areas, preferably in a manner that would enhance the effectiveness of the program's core livelihoods focus. More broadly, the objective is to strengthen the capacity of the Government of India (GoI) to deliver (or support) effective FNS interventions in tribal and backward areas.

The primary focus of this work is operationally oriented toward identifying entry points for NRLM to address tribal malnutrition as it expands into states with larger tribal communities, particularly Jharkhand and Odisha.

eGovernance in the North East: Reducing Public Administration Constraints (PACs) to improve service delivery – options and recommendations to support reform planning of the Government of Assam

Available: on-line

The World Bank, Governance & Public Sector (SASGP)
English; 32 pages

Published June 2, 2014 by World Bank
Report No.: ACS2740

The Government of Assam (GoA) is engaged in a process of improving services to citizens. The focus on better services to citizens is in line with the National e-Government Plan (NeGP), with a number of existing and anticipated Union Acts, and with recently passed acts in Assam, especially the Assam Right to Public Services Act of 2012.

The GoA is fully aware that progress on service delivery will require attention to both vertical and horizontal connectivity, and it intends to develop a Strategic Action Plan which focuses on these critical elements. The policy dialogue with the Government of Assam and review of relevant documents reveal general agreement on main public administration constraints (PAC's) to service delivery. The report proposes a gradual reform approach. It provides a detailed diagnostic of constraints identified in Assam, and proposes actions to address each of the constraints.

South Asia Publications

Breaking Down Barriers to Regional Trade and Cooperation in South Asia

By David Gould and Martin Rama

Price: \$29.95

South Asia Development Forum

English; Paperback; 208 pages

Published June 1, 2014 by World Bank

ISBN: 978-1-4648-0024-5

SKU: 210024

South Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in the world, but it is also one of the least integrated. While trade within South Asia has been growing, it has grown more slowly than trade with countries outside the region. The gains from greater integration through commerce, power trade, and river basin management could be enormous.

Tariff and especially non-tariff barriers undermine trade in goods and services. Poor infrastructure connectivity

and institutionally weak power sector agencies prevent the flow of electricity across borders.

This book examines why the barriers to regional trade and cooperation have been so difficult to overcome, evaluates the potential economic and poverty reduction gains for greater regional integration, and proposes concrete policies, institutional strengthening measures, and investments that South Asian countries may pursue to tap into these unexploited benefits. Complementary avenues to regional integration include: collective action by businesses, especially in smaller countries, strengthening of supra-national institutions, and regional leadership by India.

India: Policy Research Working Papers

WPS6987

Integrating border regions: Connectivity and competitiveness in South Asia

By Massimiliano Cali, Thomas Farole, Charles Kunaka and Swarnim Wagle

Deeper regional integration can be beneficial especially for regions along international borders. It can open up new markets on opposite sides of borders and give consumers wider access to cheaper goods. This paper uses data from five contiguous districts of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh in the northeast of the subcontinent to measure the degrees of trade complementarity between districts. The paper illustrates that the regions are underexploiting the potential of intraregional commerce. Price wedges of up to 90 percent in some important consumption products along with measures of complementarity between households' production and consumption suggest the potential for relatively large gains from deeper trade integration.

WPS6975

Managing quantity, quality, and timing in Indian cane sugar production: Ex post marketing permits or ex ante production contracts?

By Sandhyarani Patlolla, Rachael E. Goodhue and Richard J. Sexton

Private sugar processors in Andhra Pradesh use an unusual form of vertical coordination. They issue 'permits' to selected cane growers a few weeks before harvest. These permits specify the amount of cane to be delivered during a narrow time period. This article investigates why processors create uncertainty among farmers using ex post permits instead of ex ante production contracts. The theoretical model predicts that ex post permits are more profitable than ex ante contracts. The use of ex post permits creates competition among farmers to increase cane quality, which increases processor profits and farmer costs. Empirical analysis supports the hypothesis that

farmers operating in private factory areas have higher unit production costs than do their counterparts who patronize cooperatives.

WPS6958

The anatomy of failure: An ethnography of a randomized trial to deepen democracy in rural India

By Kripa Ananthpur, Kabir Malik and Vijayendra Rao

Programs that induce citizen participation to improve the quality of government at the local level are the subjects of large amounts of funding and intense debate. This paper combines a randomized control trial of a citizenship training and facilitation program in rural India, with an in-depth, four-year ethnography of the intervention to understand the underlying mechanisms of change. The quantitative data show no impact from the intervention. Household and village survey data from 100 treatment and 100 control villages show considerable improvement across a wide variety of governance and participation indicators over time, but the differences in the changes between treatment and control villages are not statistically significant. The detailed qualitative data from a 10 percent subsample allow us to unpack the reasons why the intervention “failed,” highlighting the role of variations in the quality of facilitation, lack of top-down support, and difficulties with confronting the stubborn challenge of persistent inequality.

WPS6953

Parallel systems and human resource management in India's public health services: A view from the front lines

By Gerard La Forgia, Shomikho Raha, Shabbeer Shaik, Sunil Kumar Maheshwari and et.al.

There is building evidence in India that the delivery of health services suffers from an actual shortfall in trained health professionals, but also from unsatisfactory results of existing service providers working in the public and private sectors. This study focusses on the public sector and examines de facto institutional and governance arrangements that may give rise to well-documented provider behaviors such as absenteeism, which can adversely affect service delivery processes and outcomes. The paper considers four human resource management subsystems: postings, transfers, promotions, and disciplinary practices. The four subsystems are analyzed from the perspective of front line workers, that is, physicians working in rural health care facilities operated by two state governments. Physicians were sampled in one post-reform state that has instituted human resource management reforms and one pre-reform state that has not. The findings are based on quantitative and qualitative measurement. The results show that formal

rules are undermined by a parallel modus operandi in which desirable posts are often determined by political connections and side payments. The evidence suggests an institutional environment in which formal rules of accountability are trumped by a parallel set of accountabilities. These systems appear so entrenched that reforms have borne no significant effect.

WPS6944

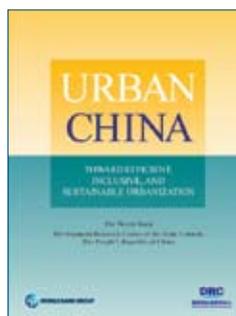
Welfare dynamics measurement: Two definitions of a vulnerability line and their empirical application

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

Little research currently exists on a vulnerability line that distinguishes the poor population from the population that is not poor but that still faces significant risk of falling back into poverty. This paper attempts to fill this gap by proposing vulnerability lines that can be straightforwardly estimated with panel or cross-sectional household survey data, in rich- and poor-country settings. These vulnerability lines offer a means to broaden traditional poverty analysis and can also assist with the identification of the middle class or resilient population groups. Empirical illustrations are provided using panel data from the United States (Panel Study of Income Dynamics) and Vietnam (Vietnam Household Living Standards Survey) for the period 2004-2008 and cross-sectional data from India (National Sample Survey) for the period 2004-2009. The estimation results indicate that in Vietnam and India during this time period, the population living in poverty and the middle class have been falling and expanding, respectively, while the opposite has been occurring in the United States.

Other Publications

Urban China: Toward Efficient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Urbanization



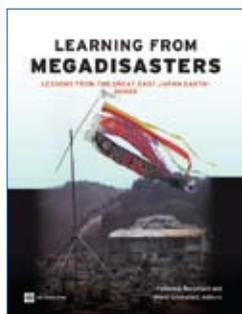
By the World Bank
Development Research
Center of the State Council
Price: \$49.95
English; Paperback; 624
pages
Published July 29, 2014 by
World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0206-5
SKU: 210206

Urban China is a joint research report by a team from the World Bank and the Development Research Center of China's State Council which was established to address the challenges and opportunities of urbanization in China and to help China forge a new model of urbanization. The report takes as its point of departure the conviction that China's urbanization can become more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable.

However, it stresses that achieving this vision will require strong support from both government and the markets for policy reforms in a number of areas.

The report proposes six main areas for reform: first, amending land management institutions to foster more efficient land use, denser cities, modernized agriculture, and more equitable wealth distribution; second, adjusting the hukou household registration system to increase labor mobility and provide urban migrant workers equal access to a common standard of public services; third, placing urban finances on a more sustainable footing while fostering financial discipline among local governments; fourth, improving urban planning to enhance connectivity and encourage scale and agglomeration economies; fifth, reducing environmental pressures through more efficient resource management; and sixth, improving governance at the local level.

Learning from Megadisasters: Lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake



Edited by Federica Ranghieri, Mikio Ishiwatari
Price: \$34.95
English; Paperback;
388 pages
Published June 26, 2014
by World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0153-2
SKU: 210153

The book consolidates a set of 36 Knowledge Notes, research results of a joint study undertaken by the Government of Japan and the World Bank. These notes highlight key lessons learned in seven thematic clusters – structural measures; nonstructural measures; emergency response; reconstruction planning; hazard and risk information and decision making; the economics of disaster risk, risk management, and risk financing; and recovery and relocation.

The Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology 2014



By World Bank
Price: \$19.95
World Development Indicators
English; Paperback; 244 pages
Published June 10, 2014 by World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0177-8
SKU: 210177

This Little Data Book presents tables for over 213 economies showing the most recent national data on key indicators of information and communications technology (ICT), including access,

quality, affordability, efficiency, sustainability, and applications.

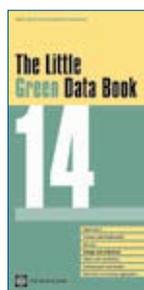
The Little Data Book on Private Sector Development 2014



Price: \$19.95
World Development Indicators
English; Paperback; 244 pages
Published June 10, 2014
by World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0179-2
SKU: 210179

The book provides data for more than 20 key indicators on the business environment and private sector development in a single page for each of the World Bank member countries and other economies with populations of more than 30,000. The 200 country pages are supplemented by aggregate data tables by regional and income groupings.

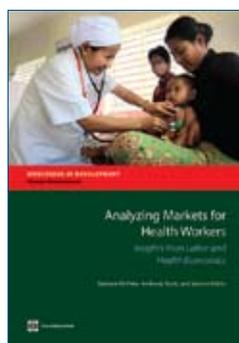
The Little Green Data Book 2014



By World Bank
Price: \$19.95
World Development Indicators
English; Paperback; 248 pages
Published June 18, 2014
by World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0175-4
SKU: 210175

The Little Green Data Book is a pocket-sized ready reference on key environmental data for over 200 countries. Key indicators are organized under the headings of agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, oceans, energy, emission and pollution, and water and sanitation. For the second year, the Little Green Data Book presents a new set of ocean-related indicators, highlighting the role of oceans in economic development.

Analyzing Markets for Health Workers: Insights from Labor and Health Economics



By Barbara McPake, Anthony Scott and Ijeoma Edoa
Price: \$29.95
Directions in Development - Human Development
English; Paperback;
96 pages
Published June 23, 2014
by World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0224-9
SKU: 210224

This publication is part of the Bank's multiyear

program to enhance its knowledge of HRH policies. The program's ultimate objective is to strengthen knowledge and capacity to collect evidence, analyze, and evaluate the effectiveness of HRH interventions in the context of a country's health system strengthening strategy. It specifically addresses the theoretical and empirical evidence on health labor markets in low- and middle-income countries.

The book provides an overview of the key issues when attempting to apply economics to the analysis of health workers' labor markets.

The Eurasian Connection: Supply-Chain Efficiency along the Modern Silk Route through Central Asia



By Cordula Rastogi, Jean-Francois Arvis
Price: \$29.95
 Directions in Development – Trade
English; Paperback; 128 pages
 Published June 23, 2014 by World Bank
 ISBN: 978-0-8213-9912-5
 SKU: 19912

The book revisits trade and transport connectivity through countries in Central Asia along the old Silk Route, drawing from knowledge from project implementation and field research. It takes the modern perspective of supply-chain efficiency and logistics performance, which depends not only on infrastructure but also on markets and policies.

It suggests that the policy focus should not be on only physical trade routes. Rather, it stresses the focus on supply-chain reliability and proposes policy packages and enabling implementation practices, consistent across countries in the region in areas such as transportation, customs and border clearance, trade, or transit. It also highlights the complementarity of the current initiatives, including the recent development of the Eurasian Customs Union, or the rising of trade and investment from China.

The IBNET Water Supply and Sanitation Blue Book 2014: The International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Utilities Databook



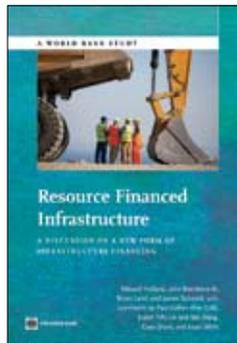
By Alexander Danilenko, Caroline van den Berg, Berta Macheve and L. Joe Moffitt
Price: \$29.95
English; Paperback; 166 pages

Published August 6, 2014 by World Bank
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0276-8
 SKU: 210276

The International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Utilities of the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program (IBNET) has been involved in water sector monitoring since 1997. It has set a global standard for performance assessment of utilities, with information from more than 4,400 utilities from 135 countries.

This edition of the Blue Book summarizes the water sector status from 2006 to 2011. It adopts the 'IBNET Apgar' consolidated scoring system, which assesses a utility's health based on indicators that reflect the utility's operational, financial, and social performance, and a Water Utility Vulnerability Index (WUVI), a dynamic version of Apgar.

Resource Financed Infrastructure: A Discussion on a new form of Infrastructure Financing



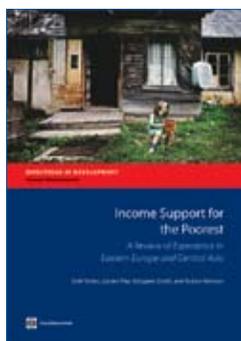
By Havard Halland, John Beardsworth, Bryan Land and James Schmidt
Price: \$29.95
 World Bank Studies
English; Paperback; 113 pages
 Published May 23, 2014 by World Bank
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0239-3
 SKU: 210239

This report, consisting of a study prepared by global project finance specialists Hunton & Williams LLP and comments from six internationally reputed economists and policy makers, provides an analytical discussion of resource-financed infrastructure (RFI) contracting from a project finance perspective.

The report is meant as a forum for in-depth discussion and as a basis for further research into RFI's role, risks, and potential, without any intention to present a World Bank-supported view on RFI contracting. It is motivated by the conviction that if countries are to continue to either seek RFI or receive unsolicited RFI proposals, there is an onus on public officials to discern bad deals from good, to judge unavoidable trade-offs, and to act accordingly.

Income Support for the Poorest: A Review of Experience in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

By Emil Tesliuc, Lucian Pop, Margaret Grosh and Ruslan Yemtsov
Price: \$35.00
 Directions in Development - Human Development
English; Paperback;



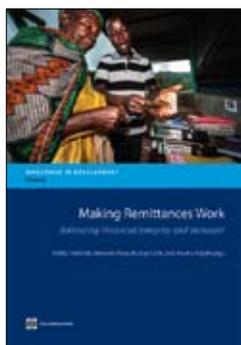
220 pages
Published June 26, 2014
by World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0237-9
SKU: 210237

This study reviews the role and workings, with their strengths and weaknesses of last-resort income support (LRIS) programs in Eastern Europe and Central

Asia. It draws on a combination of household survey and administrative data for a large group of countries and detailed case studies for a smaller number of countries that span the spectrum of the income range in the region.

The study also suggests that currently the role of last resort income support programs within the overall social protection systems of the region is often too small and that their eligibility thresholds should be revised and indexed, so that the programs continue to serve a meaningful swath of the low income households in each country. Moreover the programs can be used as the nexus to weave together a variety of income supports and services for low income households.

Making Remittances Work: Balancing Financial Integrity and Inclusion



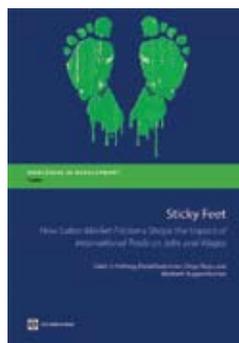
By Emiko Todoroki, Wameek Noor, Kuntay Celik and Anoma Kulathunga
Price: \$35.00
Directions in Development - Human Development
English; Paperback;
264 pages
Published June 19, 2014
by World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0109-9
SKU: 210109

Remittances are a critical source of external financing for many developing countries, and probably the most stable source of primary or additional income for many households in those countries. Despite the 2008-09 international financial crisis, remittances continue to show resilience and growth. Remittances fell by only 5.5 percent in 2009, while foreign direct investment flows declined by 40 percent and private debt and portfolio equity flows by 46 percent (World Bank 2011).

This study aims to assess current practices, draw lessons learned, and assist policy makers in designing an effective regulatory and supervisory framework governing Remittance Service Providers (RSPs) that not only meets the Anti-Money Laundering/Combating

the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) international standards, but also supports a country's overall financial inclusion objectives. This study focuses on how best to implement the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in a manner that does not unduly compromise financial inclusion objectives.

Sticky Feet: How Labor Market Frictions Shape the Impact of International Trade on Jobs and Wages

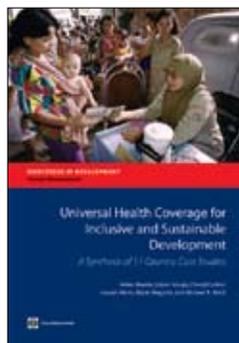


By Claire H. Hollweg, Daniel Lederman, Diego Rojas and Elizabeth Ruppert Bulmer
Price: \$29.95
Directions in Development - Trade
English; Paperback;
120 pages
Published June 26, 2014
by World Bank
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0263-8
SKU: 210263

This report presents an estimation strategy for capturing mobility costs when only net flows of workers between industries are observed, generating cross-country estimates for 47 developed and developing countries.

The main findings of the report are that: labor mobility costs in developing countries are high; foregone trade gains due to frictions in labor mobility can also be substantial; workers bear the brunt of adjustment costs; mobility costs and labor market adjustments to trade-related shocks vary by industry, firm type, and worker type; entry costs are significantly higher for formal than for informal employment; trade reforms increase economy-wide wages and employment; and workers displaced by plant closings are likely to face relatively long adjustment periods.

Universal Health Coverage for Inclusive and Sustainable Development: A Synthesis of 11 Country Case Studies



By Akiko Maeda, Edson Araujo, Cheryl Cashin, Joseph Harris, Naoki Ikegami and Michael R. Reich
Price: \$25.00
Directions in Development - Human Development
English; Paperback;
72 pages
Published July 3, 2014
by World Bank

ISBN: 978-1-4648-0297-3
SKU: 210297

Countries as diverse as Brazil, France, Japan, Thailand, and Turkey have shown how Universal Health Coverage (UHC) can serve as vital mechanisms for improving the health and welfare of their citizens, and lay the foundation for economic growth and competitiveness grounded in the principles of equity and sustainability. Ensuring universal access to affordable, quality health services will be an important contribution to ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs), where most of the world's poor live.

The book synthesizes the experiences from 11 countries – Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Peru, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam – in implementing policies and strategies to achieve and sustain UHC.

World Bank Group Support for Innovation and Entrepreneurship: An Independent Evaluation



By World Bank
Price: \$29.95
 Independent Evaluation
 Group Studies
English; Paperback;
 224 pages
 Published June 9, 2014
 by World Bank
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0136-5
 SKU: 210136

The Independent Evaluation Group reviewed the investment portfolio in innovation and entrepreneurship interventions over the past decade across the World Bank Group. IEG found that this investment is substantial, but its effectiveness can be enhanced through broad, systemic efforts. Urgent action is required to enhance coordination, consultation, and linkages on innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across networks, sectors, and regions.

India Project Documents

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Program

Date 07 July 2014
 Project ID P150395
 Report No. PIDC6141 (Project Information Document (Concept Stage)
 ISDSC8456 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

National Vector Borne Disease Control and Polio Eradication Support Project

Date 27 June 2014
 Project ID P094360
 Report No. ICR3055 (Implementation Completion and Results Report)

Efficient & Sustainable City Bus Services

Date 23 June 2014
 Project ID P132418
 Report No. PIDA6693 (Project Information Document Appraisal Stage)
 ISDSA8724 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)
 E4577 (Environmental Assessment)

29.7 MW Karnataka Wind Power Carbon Finance Project

Date 27 June 2014
 Project ID P119295
 Report No. 89045 (Implementation Completion and Results Report)

Neeranchal National Watershed Project

Date 20 June 2014
 Project ID P132739
 Report No. PAD837 (Project Appraisal Document)

Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Date 08 June 2014
 Project ID P083187
 Report No. 88541 (Procurement Plan)

Greening the Energy Mix in DVC

Date 05 June 2014
 Project ID P147818
 Report No. ISDSC8329 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Concept Stage)

Using Open Data to drive innovation, collaboration and change in India

By Vikas Kanungo



Open Data has the potential to be a game-changing tool in poverty reduction and economic growth. The World Bank has been actively encouraging governments to become more transparent, more accountable to their citizens, less susceptible to corruption and better at delivering services.

We often consult various partners – including governments, organizations and other implementers

– on Open Data and its critical role in economic development and growth. The World Bank’s team of information and communication technology (ICT) and open data experts help explore the potential for forecasting national and global trends, while also unlocking opportunities for innovation and improved performance. These consultations serve as a crucial starting point in planning, implementation and correction of many government, private sector and civil society initiatives.

Since 2012, the Bank has organized a series of trainings on open data tools and online resources for users in government, economic research institutes, media, civil society, academia and the private sector. More than 3,000 stakeholders have been trained already in 10+ major cities of India. There is need to take this agenda forward especially in the low-income states where exposure to the Bank’s resources is lower.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/la7jct8>

A Tale of Two Competitive Cities: What Patterns Are Emerging So Far?

By Z Kulenovic



The World Bank Group is pursuing a Competitive Cities Knowledge Base (CCKB) project, looking at how metropolitan economies can create jobs and ensure prosperity for their residents. By carrying out case studies of economically successful cities in each of the world’s six broad regions, the Bank Group hopes to identify the “teachable moments” from which other cities can learn and replicate some

of those lessons, adapting them to fit their own circumstances.

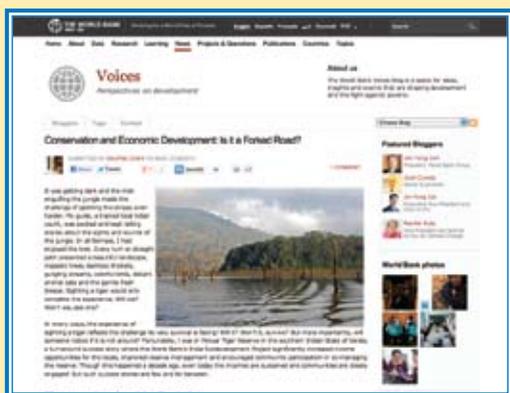
The first two case studies – Bucaramanga, in Colombia’s Santander Department, and Coimbatore, in India’s State of Tamil Nadu – were carried out between April and June 2014. Although they’re on opposite sides of the globe, these two mid-sized, secondary cities have revealed some remarkable similarities. This may be a good moment to share a few initial observations.

Bucaramanga and Coimbatore were selected for study because they outpaced their respective countries and other cities in their regions, in terms of employment and GDP growth, in the period from 2007 to 2012. Faced with the same macroeconomic and regulatory framework as other Indian and Colombian cities, the obvious question is: What did these two cities do differently that enabled them to grow faster?

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/pwn2z42>

Conservation and Economic Development: Is it a Forked Road?

By Anupam Joshi



It was getting dark and the mist engulfing the jungle made the challenge of spotting the stripes even harder. My guide, a trained local tribal youth, was excited and kept telling stories about the sights and sounds of the jungle. In all fairness, I had enjoyed the trek. Every turn or straight path presented a beautiful landscape, majestic trees,

bamboo thickets, gurgling streams, colorful birds, distant animal calls and the gentle fresh breeze. Sighting a tiger would only complete the experience. Will we? Won't we, see one?

In many ways, the experience of sighting a tiger reflects the challenge its very survival is facing! Will it? Won't it, survive? But more importantly, will someone notice if it is not around? Fortunately, I was in Periyar Tiger Reserve in the southern Indian State of Kerala, a turnaround success story where the World Bank's India Ecodevelopment Project significantly increased income opportunities for the locals, improved reserve management and encouraged community participation in co-managing the reserve. Though this happened a decade ago, even today the incomes are sustained and communities are closely engaged! But such success stories are few and far between.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/nmj5lsk>

Who are the bottom 40 percent?

By Jos Verbeek

Co-author: Eugenia Suarez Moran



Who are the bottom 40 percent of society? Where do they live? What do they do? What other characteristics do they have?

These are just some of the questions we are hoping to answer as part of the World Bank Group's new mission critical – to end extreme and chronic poverty by 2030 and boost shared prosperity. The renewed effort against poverty is needed as more than one billion people in the developing world continue to live in abject poverty (i.e. on less than \$1.25 a day).

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/k8n3xlv>

World Bank Policy Research Working Papers

WPS 7002

Eradicating poverty in fragile states: Prospects of reaching the “high-hanging” fruit by 2030

By Alison Burt, Barry Hughes and Gary Milante

WPS 7001

Predicting World Bank project outcome ratings

By Patricia Geli, Aart Kraay and Hoveida Nobakht

WPS 7000

Seeing is believing? Evidence from an extension network experiment

By Florence Kondylis, Valerie Mueller and Siyao

Jessica Zhu

WPS 6999

Export performance and geography in Croatia

By Erhan Artuc, Mariana Iootty and Ana Florina Pirlea

WPS 6998

Aid is good for the poor

By Yumeka Hirano and Shigeru Otsubo

WPS 6997

The drivers of non-revenue water: How effective are non-revenue water reduction programs?

By Caroline van den Berg

WPS 6996

Egypt: Inequality of opportunity in education

By Lire Ersado and Jeremie Gignoux

WPS 6995

Strategic information revelation and capital allocation

By Alvaro Pedraza Morales

WPS 6994

Strategic interactions and portfolio choice in money management: Evidence from Colombian pension funds

By Alvaro Pedraza Morales

WPS 6993

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By Daniel Riera-Crichton, Carlos A. Vegh and Guillermo Vuletin

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