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About the photograph:
 Young women working at a
 lingerie manufacturing unit
 in Kanchipuram district,
 Tamil Nadu

Photo courtesy: Shaju John

Apparel industry has a huge potential to create new and better jobs in India

Nearly one million people are expected to enter the workforce every month for the next three decades in India. Export-oriented apparel production in India and other South Asian countries has the potential to create more and better jobs for development.

With relatively low skill requirements, apparel manufacturing presents the poor with job opportunities. It also has a unique ability to attract female workers, with women's share of total apparel employment being much higher than women's share of the national labor force in nearly every country in the region.



A new World Bank report *Stitches to Riches? Apparel Employment, Trade and Economic Development* demystifies the global and South Asian apparel markets, estimates the potential gains in exports and jobs, and identifies policies that can unleash South Asia's export and job potential compared with those of their closest competitors in the Southeast Asia region (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Indonesia).

As wages increase, China, the largest apparel manufacturer for the last 10 years, is expected to slowly relinquish its lead position

in the global apparel market, opening the door to other competitors. As apparel exports increase, the rising demand for female labor is also likely to pull women from agriculture and other informal sectors.

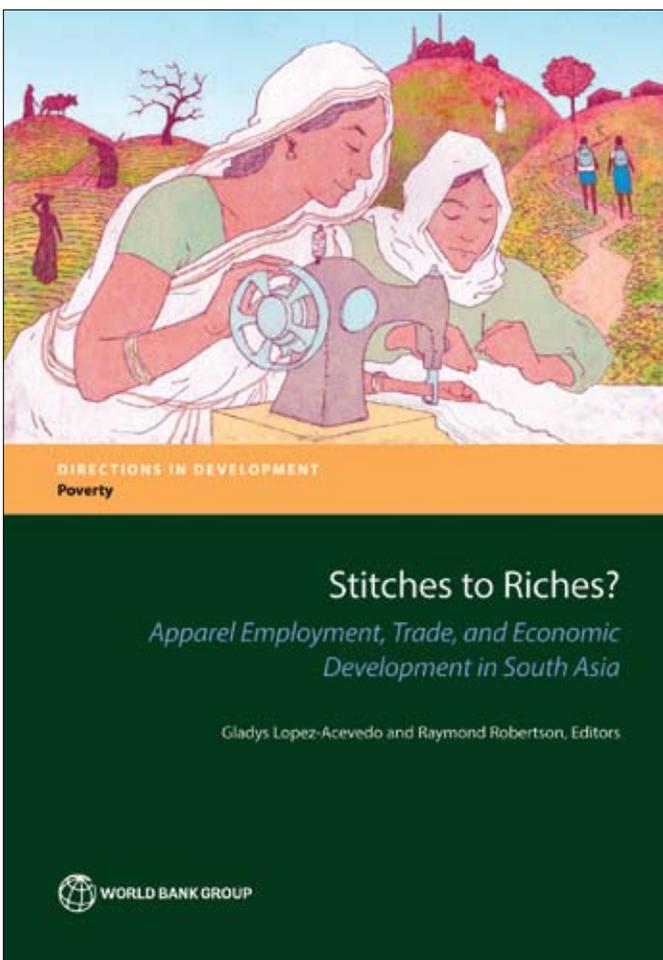
This could be a huge opportunity for India and other South Asian countries. Even a 10 percent increase in Chinese apparel prices could create at least 1.2 million new jobs in the Indian apparel industry, the report estimates.

Women are expected to benefit the most as their share in the total apparel employment is much higher than their share in other industries. A one percent increase in expected wages in the textiles and apparel industry could raise the probability of women entering the labor force by 18.9 percent, says the report.

“Apparel manufacturing not only has a huge potential for creating jobs, particularly for the poor but also has a unique ability to attract female workers. Employed women are more likely to create positive social impacts as they tend to spend their income on the health and education of children,” said Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director, India. “Rising costs of apparel manufacturing in China provides a window of opportunity for India to focus on apparel in productively employing its huge working-age population,” Onno added.

The top four apparel producers in South Asia – Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka – have made big investments in world apparel trade and account for 12 percent of global apparel exports. India also has a more diversified export structure and has a well-developed fiber (cotton), textile and apparel manufacturing base.

Though India is gaining market share, Southeast Asian countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam) are outperforming all South Asian countries in overall apparel export performance, product diversity, and other non-cost related factors. For it to take advantage, India needs to move quickly to ease barriers to the import of manmade fibers, facilitate market access and encourage foreign investment to reach more end markets, which would also yield dividends for other light manufacturers like footwear and toy, the new World Bank report *Stitches to Riches* suggests.





“South Asia has taken many steps in recent years to support the textile and apparel sector, but it now needs to step up its game by tackling inefficiencies that are undercutting its competitiveness. Greater access to manmade fiber and integration between textile and apparel among other measures can help Indian companies take advantage of the emerging global opportunities and encourage good jobs for development,” said Gladys C. Lopez-Acevedo, one of the authors of the report and a Lead Economist for the World Bank.

Policy Actions

The report recommends removing trade restrictions to allow easy access to manmade fibers as inputs; increasing efficiency along

the value chain such as integration between textile and apparel; and improving social and environmental compliance by introducing better human resource practices.

It suggests the following policy measures to help increase apparel exports in India:

- **Increase product diversity** by reducing tariffs and import barriers to ease access to manmade fibers (such as more transparency for duty drawback schemes and bonded warehouses, and removing anti-dumping duties on manmade fibers). Also lower excise taxes or provide other incentives to develop a domestic manmade fiber industry.
- **Improve productivity** by helping firms enter the formal sector and take advantage of economies of scale with less complex labor policies. Also promote FDI for apparel by adopting clear and transparent policies on foreign ownership (already in place for textiles) and within export processing zones. This in turn will help reach more end markets.
- **Improve market diversity** by taking advantage of access to emerging markets.
- **Shorten lead times** by using industrial parks to provide better infrastructure in a concentrated way. 🌐



Integrated Transport

Better integrated transport modes will help reinvent Kolkata



What are the top words that come to mind when you hear about a city like Kolkata?

Perhaps you think of Mother Teresa, extreme poverty in slums, India's palaces and rich cultural heritage, or the city of joy.

Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta) was a powerful world trade and financial center during the British Indian Empire (British Raj) and the capital of India until 1911, not least because of its great location and transport connectivity potential.

The city, located near the Bay of Bengal in the north east of the country, sits on the banks of the Hooghly River, a distributary of the Ganges. It is considered the country's cultural capital and the commercial hub of Eastern India. Kolkata is also a major river port –the oldest one operating in the country- and the third most populous city in India, with some 15 million people living in its metropolitan area.

With an extensive network of mostly unconnected transport modes, however, the city faces huge challenges and opportunities to more effectively connect its roads, buses, rail, tram, metro and water ways to provide more integrated transport modes and services for its millions of commuters and massive volumes of freight.

Helping address these challenges and opportunities is what the World Bank and other partners are aiming to do through the Kolkata Metropolitan Urban Transport Integration Project.

At first glance, the objective of this technical assistance project is to assist the Government of West Bengal to develop a strategy for better integrating its various transport modes: by maximizing accessibility – to and within the Kolkata Metropolitan Area – while minimizing the carbon footprint of both passenger and freight transport.

Improving modal integration in a climate-

friendly way, for example, can be achieved by facilitating a seamless transition between modes for commuters; improving public transport accessibility, fostering transit oriented development, and most importantly improving last mile connectivity.

Valuable partnerships

Dig a bit deeper, and the Project is really supporting the government's vision to make Kolkata a more competitive city in the 21 century. This means, among other things, optimizing the utilization of its various modes of transport, including river transport, so these complement each other and improve the efficiency of the distribution process.

“The integration of transport modes is absolutely essential for Kolkata,” says Rakhi Basu, the task team leader for the project. “We have really gotten into the DNA of the city to fully understand its genetic code and underlying characteristics, as well as challenges and opportunities.”

As the government builds more metro lines, revisits its waterways options and recovers the metropolitan area for pedestrians, Basu explains, the role of transport in strengthening the city's commercial function and relationship with the port is also being

examined. In fact, the extension of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (also funded by the World Bank) to the port and the construction of an all-weather port are expected to effect a fundamental shift in the role of transport.

Bringing the Hooghly River back into the city, for example, and improving port-hinterland connection is key for optimizing the use of its waterways for both passenger and freight. And the benefits can go beyond the metropolitan area by also strengthening regional connectivity.

This technical assistance project aims to provide the necessary tools, analysis, and practical experiences to facilitate the integration of all modes of transport and improve access for millions in Kolkata's metropolitan.

Learning by twinning

To tackle the various challenges, the World Bank is bringing together experts from other transport agencies through innovative partnerships supported by various donors, including the Korean Trust Fund and AUSAID which have been essential in supporting this Project.



“Policy makers want to hear from other successful policy makers,” says Karla Gonzalez, the World Bank’s practice manager for South Asia. “We are bringing knowledge that is relevant and practical for our clients, and cities like London and Seoul can share valuable lessons with Kolkata, and also learn from it.”

Seoul, through its Korean Transport Institute, brings the experience of bus reform, while London shares best practices on integrated ticketing, open data, and more. The

exchanges with experts from the two cities are already delivering some positive outcomes.

Within six months of the engagement, for instance, Kolkata has opened up its public transport data as buses are now fitted with GPS and their movement can be tracked in real time. The open data will allow start-up companies to develop apps that can help commuters access various modes of transport services in a more efficient manner, which ultimately can help ease congestion on the roads.

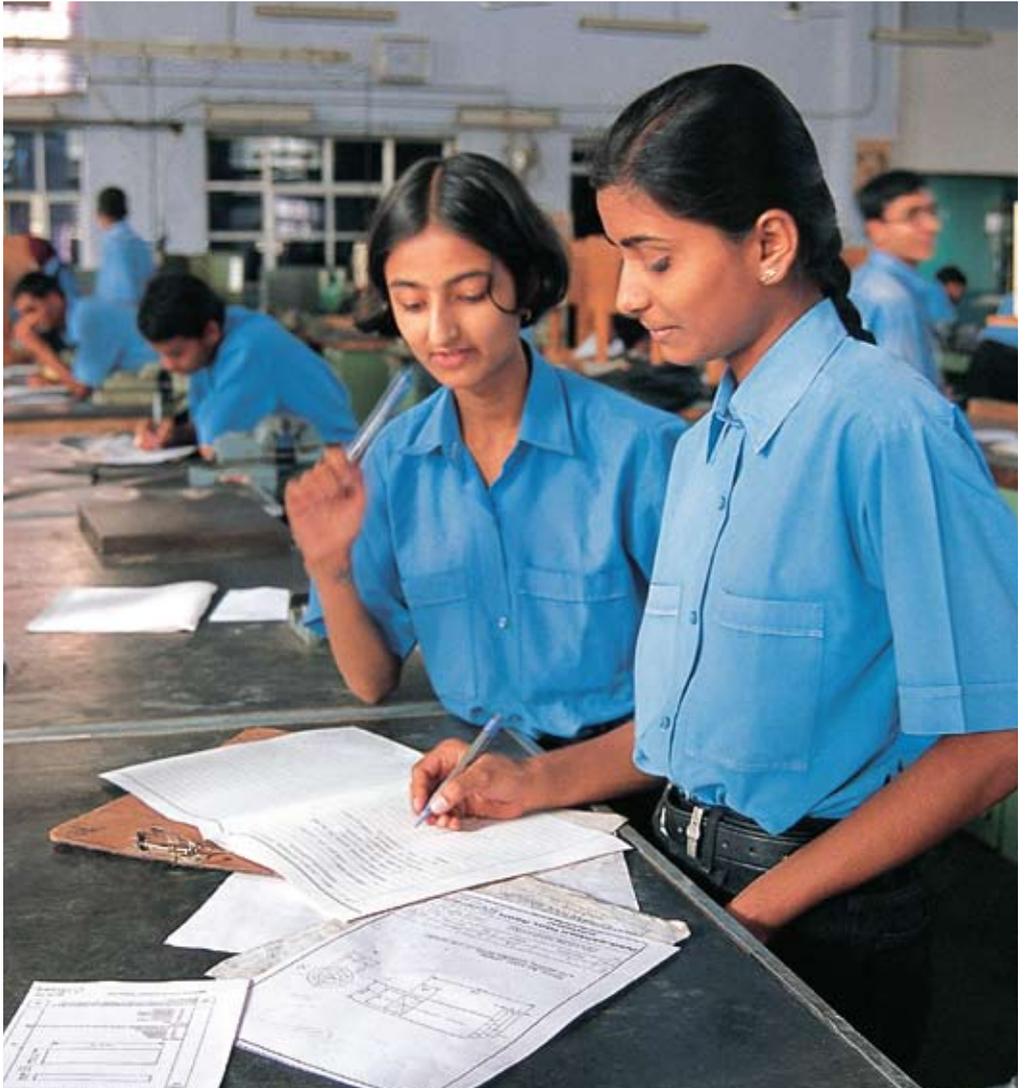
The twinning arrangement has also resulted in the design of a multimodal terminal which will be developed where three major metro routes and other bus routes converge. Other Indian cities have already expressed their interest in learning from London and Seoul.

Transport for London Director, Shashi Verma, is one of the experts supporting these exchanges.

“Learning from London can help Kolkata short-circuit some of the difficult policy development processes that other cities have gone through,” Verma explains. “We are delighted to share with Kolkata what we have learnt during the radical transformation of London’s transport over the last two decades.” 🌐



Secondary education will empower India in the 21st century



If India is to build a globally competitive workforce, a larger share of its children must finish secondary education, says Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director for India and Toby Linden, Lead Education Specialist, World Bank

Examination season is stressful for both students and their families, and the stakes could hardly be higher. Within the next decade, India will be home to the world's largest pool of human resources. How can India make the most of this opportunity?

In today's global marketplace, where the demand for skills of greater complexity is on the rise, a good secondary education

is a necessity. While earlier eight years of education might have been enough, now the minimum is 10 years. Today, however, less than half of India's 15-year-olds – just 44% – complete Class 10.

If India is to build a globally competitive workforce, a larger share of its children must finish secondary education. Moreover, the emphasis on girls' education should

be maintained at the secondary level. India can certainly achieve this. Since 2001, it has brought record numbers of children into primary schools. And, in the last six years, some 10 million more have been enrolled in secondary education, with gender parity being achieved at both the primary and secondary level.

By 2017 the number of primary age children is expected to fall by 9 million, from 197 million now. As this happens, some resources can be shifted to the secondary level.

But while money can help upgrade infrastructure, imparting quality education will call for sustained effort. China, for example, has increased enrolment while also improving quality of education. Its success can be attributed to education reforms that transformed pedagogy and focused classroom activities on problem solving.

If India is to ramp up the quality of secondary education, its teachers will need to be trained to teach for the 21st century. Teaching methods will need to be upgraded and embedded within the system, and multimedia aids to learning be used to supplement classroom instruction. Board examinations and school assessments will need to move in tandem and assess students on their problem-solving skills, going far beyond

today's emphasis on testing their knowledge of the curriculum.

All schools will need to be staffed with an adequate number of teachers. Today, less than one in five secondary schools have teachers who can teach the core subjects of languages, mathematics, science and social science.

To raise the standards some states will need more support than others. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are home to almost one-third of India's secondary age population, but less than half of them are in school, compared with almost two-thirds in Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh.

Building a nation's human resources takes time, because unlike infrastructure which can come up quickly, human development calls for a lifetime of investments in health, nutrition and education. There is no time to lose as an educated, skilled, and talented population can be a country's strongest asset in a rapidly changing world. 🌐

This opinion piece was originally published in Hindustan Times on 13th April, 2016.



ICR Update

This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Report (ICR) of a recently-closed World Bank project. The full text of the ICR is available on the Bank's website.

To access this document, go to www.worldbank.org/reference/ and then opt for the Documents & Reports section.

Second National Tuberculosis Control Program



Context

In 2005, a little over four million people in India suffered from tuberculosis (TB) which resulted in about 410,000 deaths annually. The Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP), which piloted the DOTS (Directly-observed therapy, short-courses) strategy in several states from 1997 to 2006, achieved nationwide coverage and is estimated to have saved about 1.2 million lives.

However rapid expansion of the program had outpaced the health system's capacity to effectively supervise and ensure quality, and that systems for procurement, human resource development and monitoring needed further strengthening.

Project Development Objectives

The objective was to support the Government of India's Revised National Tuberculosis

Second National Tuberculosis Control Program

Approval Date:	22 August, 2006
Closing Date:	30 September, 2012
Total Project Cost	US\$ 232 million
Bank Financing:	US\$ 179 million
Implementing Agency:	Government of India
Outcome:	Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Low or Negligible
Overall Bank Performance:	Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Satisfactory

Control Program Phase II, aimed at treating and reducing the incidence of TB throughout its territory. The aim was to achieve a target of 70 percent case detection and 85 percent cure rate in all districts of the country. The components included improving quality of laboratory services, developing the institutional capacity for supervision and monitoring services and strengthening of information, education and communication among patients and health care providers.

Main Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the program were people infected with TB in India, as well as their families and communities. In addition, groups singled out for particular attention were poor and tribal populations, HIV/AIDS patients, and patients with Multi-Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB).

Nationally, the program exceeded its target of case detection – 72 percent in 2011, compared to 66 percent in 2005 – and success rate in treatment – 88 percent in 2011, compared to 86 percent in 2005. Thirteen states exceeded the case detection target, while 27 states exceeded the treatment success target.

The program targeted 145 poor and 85 tribal districts. These districts were provided with

special incentives in the form of additional financial and managerial support and implemented special activities to improve detection and treatment success rates. In tribal districts between 2006 and 2011, the average case detection rate increased from 79 percent to 80 percent while the average treatment success rate increased from 86 percent to 88 percent. In districts designated as poor, between 2006 and 2011, the average case detection rate increased from 55 percent to 67 percent and the average treatment success rate increased from 85 percent to 89 percent.

Increasing HIV/TB coordination has been a very positive contribution by the Project given the importance and risk of co-infection. From 11,331 in 2005, the annual number of people referred for TB testing from voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services in 2011 was 435,880.

The annual number of HIV/AIDS patients referred from VCT services and diagnosed with TB increased significantly from 3,034 patients in 2005 to 37,865 in 2011 (with a cumulative total of 189,982 during the course of the project). Similarly, this coordination increased the annual number of HIV-TB patients placed on DOTS, going from 2,047 patients in 2005 to 34,355 in 2011.



Pediatric patients put on DOTS increased significantly from 59,846 cases in 2005 to 84,064 in 2011.

The program was successful in putting about 16,826 MDR-TB patients on DOTS-Plus treatment (against the target of 4,150). However, not all patients completed their treatment. Program results show that 49 percent of patients completed their treatment compared to a target of 70 percent, which illustrates the challenge of the MDR-TB treatment.

Part of the program's success for improving TB case detection involved the support for substantial physical expansion of laboratories at the state level. By 2012, a network of 42 Intermediate Reference Laboratories (IRL) was established, exceeding the target of 24 laboratories.

Lessons Learnt

- It is important to sharpen the focus on targeted groups and set realistic project targets.
- Adopting and investing in new diagnostic technologies and leveraging the growth in information communication technology by using more integrated information systems will expedite the transfer of test results between laboratories and treatment

services, and allow for timely referrals and treatment.

- More information is needed regarding the emergence of MDR-TB in India and how to mitigate the incidence through lessons from other countries. Understanding the gaps in DOTS program operations that may have contributed to MDR-TB is crucial for developing an effective MDR-TB strategy.
- Improving the quality of physical infrastructure of the laboratories, improving biosafety measures and medical waste management practices, strengthening the training and technical capacity of providers to improve the quality of clinical care, and improving the quality of supervision and reporting are critical for the success of the program.
- Addressing gender issues should be integral to program design and operations. More work needs to be done to ensure that services are being accessed and preventive efforts are in place to mitigate relapse rates among males and females alike. Such targeted efforts will help yield better program results. Documenting health seeking behavior by gender and the social factors that impact it could provide useful lessons for TB program in India and for other countries. 🌐



Recent Project Approvals

Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project



The World Bank Board has approved a US\$ 100 million project to support the efforts of Hubballi-Dharwad, the second largest urban centre in Karnataka, to become one of the first Indian cities to provide citywide, continuous, piped water supply to its residents.

Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project (KUWSMP) will help bring clean water

to one million citizens of Hubballi-Dharwad, including 160,000 people who live in slums and currently depend upon public standposts or private vendors for water. The Project will finance physical investments in the water supply system for the twin cities, and support city authorities in strengthening systems and procedures required to sustainably close the current water service delivery gaps. 🌐

Recent Project Signings

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Support Operation Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a US\$1.5 billion loan agreement for the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Support Operation Project to ensure all citizens in the rural areas have access to improved sanitation with a focus on changing behaviour and eliminating the practice of open defecation by 2019.

The loan agreement for the project was signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of

Finance on behalf of the Government of India and Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director, India on behalf of the World Bank.

This project will support the rural component, known as SBM – Gramin (SBM-G), over a five-year period using a new performance-based program which links funds directly to results, ensuring that benefits are delivered to the people in need – more than 60 percent of India’s population that resides in rural areas. 🌐



The Government of India, the Government of Rajasthan and the World Bank have signed a US\$ 250 million development policy loan (DPL) to support Rajasthan in improving the performance of its electricity distribution sector under the State's 24x7 Power for All program.

It will be in a series of two operations for a comprehensive turnaround of Rajasthan's electricity distribution sector.

The loan agreement was signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India; Sanjay Malhotra,

Principal Secretary, Energy, Department of Energy, Government of Rajasthan; and Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director, India on behalf of the World Bank.

The key areas that the operation will support include strengthening governance in the distribution sector in the state by giving more operational autonomy to the utilities; financial restructuring and recovery in the sector through transferring considerable amount of the debt of the DISCOMs to the state; and improving the operational performance of the DISCOMs. 🌐



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

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

The World Bank PIC

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India Publications

Competitive cities in India: Kanpur unrealized potential – the lagging growth trajectory of a manufacturing hub

By Fahad Mustafa, Sanjay Grover and Shiny Jaison
Available On-line
March 2016; 29 pages
Report No.: AUS7515

This case study of the city of Kanpur contributes to developing an understanding of the factors driving city competitiveness in general and in India in particular. Kanpur's lagging growth trajectory cannot be understood purely in terms of city-level factors. National and state-level factors also play an important role. In the context of a weak city government, this study focuses on proactive interventions made by various city-level stakeholders, in this case largely the private sector, to improve Kanpur's competitiveness.

Kanpur's future will hinge on the ability of all stakeholders to foster more broad-based growth coalitions and linkages in order to mobilize public and semi-public goods to translate the city's potential into wider, stronger, and more sustainable economic benefits.

Urban health advantages and penalties in India: Overview and case studies – discussion paper



By Patrick M. Mullen
Available On-line
February 2016; 106 pages
Report No.: AUS7433

This paper explores the extent to which health, nutrition, and population conditions may be

contributing to the benefits of urbanization, as well as the extent to which they may reflect its costs. This paper also draws on specifics of four case studies: Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Bhubaneswar in Odisha, Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, and Shillong in Meghalaya.

WPS 7626

Looking back on two decades of poverty and well-being in India

By Ambar Narayan and Rinku Murgai

This paper provides an overview of poverty and well-being trends in India since the mid-1990s. Poverty reduction since 2005 has been much faster than the earlier decade, as a result of broad-based growth across most geographic areas.

Underlying this is a pattern of high mobility in economic status that has led to an emerging middle class. Still, a vast (and rising) share of the population faces significant risk of slipping back into poverty. India's poor are increasingly concentrated in low-income states with historically lower rates of economic progress.

Even as India has reduced poverty faster than the developing world as a whole, the degree of poverty reduction associated with growth has been substantially lower than in some of its middle-income peers. India faces important challenges in nonmonetary dimensions of welfare as well.

Despite success on important fronts, such as infant and child mortality and secondary education, progress has been slow in others, such as sanitation and nutrition, and lags behind some other countries that are at a similar stage of development.

WPS 7623

Identifying the economic potential of Indian districts

By Mark Roberts

Despite its rapid growth in recent decades, GDP per capita in India remains at a relatively low level by international standards, and the country continues to be marked by large subnational disparities in levels of well-being. These large disparities naturally lead to interest in India's spatial landscape of potential for economic development.

Against this backdrop, this paper presents the results of an analysis of underlying variations in economic potential across Indian districts, where economic potential is defined as the extent to which a district possesses factors that are important determinants of the ability to experience a high level of productivity.

The analysis is based on a simple composite Economic Potential Index, which is constructed from variables for which robust evidence exists of their importance as determinants of local productivity. From the analysis, a picture emerges of a heterogeneous landscape of economic potential characterized by strong geographic clustering.

WPS 7602

Why did poverty decline in India? A nonparametric decomposition exercise

By Carlos Felipe Balcazar Salazar, Sonal Desai, Rinku Murgai and Ambar Narayan

This paper uses panel data to analyze factors that contributed to the rapid decline in poverty in India between 2005 and 2012. The analysis employs a nonparametric decomposition method that measures the relative contributions of different components of household livelihoods to observed changes in poverty.

The results show that poverty decline is associated with a significant increase in labor earnings, explained in turn by a steep rise in wages for unskilled labor, and diversification from farm to nonfarm sources of income in rural areas. Transfers, in the form of remittances and social programs, have contributed but are not the primary drivers of poverty decline over this period.

The pattern of changes is consistent with processes associated with structural transformation, which add up to a highly pro-poor pattern of income growth over the initial distribution of income and consumption. However, certain social groups (Adivasis and Dalits) are found to be more likely to stay in or fall into poverty and less likely to move out of poverty. And even as poverty has reduced dramatically, the share of vulnerable population has not.

WPS 7579

The fiscal cost of weak governance: Evidence from teacher absence in India

By Karthik Muralidharan, Jishnu Das, Alaka Holla and Aakash Mohpal

Using a new nationally-representative panel dataset of schools across 1,297 villages in India, this paper shows that the large investments over the past decade have led to substantial improvements in input-based measures of school quality, but only a modest reduction in inefficiency as measured by teacher absence. In the data, 23.6 percent of teachers were absent during unannounced visits with an associated fiscal cost of \$1.5 billion/year.

There are two robust correlations in the nationally-representative panel data that corroborate findings from smaller-scale experiments. First, reductions in student-teacher ratios are correlated with increased teacher absence. Second, increases in the frequency of school monitoring are strongly correlated with lower teacher absence.

Simulations using these results suggest that investing in better governance by increasing the frequency of monitoring could be over ten times more cost effective at increasing teacher-student contact time (net of teacher absence) than hiring more teachers.

Other Publications

Health Financing Policy: The Macroeconomic, Fiscal, and Public Finance Context

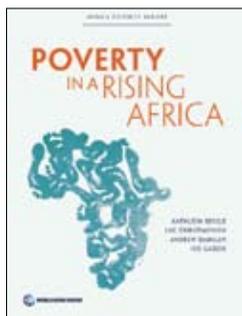


By World Bank
Available On-line
February 2016; 76 pages
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0796-1
SKU: 210796

The report outlines key components of the macroeconomic, fiscal, and public financial management context that need to be considered for an informed

health financing discussion at the country level. Each section of the book points to measures, resources, and analytical tools that are available to assist in answering these questions for a specific country. It draws on case studies from 11 countries moving toward or sustaining universal health coverage conducted as part of the Japan–World Bank Partnership Program on universal health coverage as well as from other country examples.

Poverty in a Rising Africa

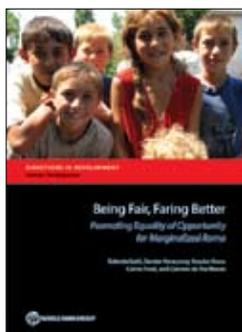


By World Bank
Available On-line
March 2016; Pages 145
ISBN 978-1-4648-0723-7
SKU: 210723

Poverty in a Rising Africa is the first of two reports aimed at improving the understanding about progress in poverty

reduction in Africa and at articulating a policy agenda to accelerate it. This report documents the data challenges and revisits the key facts about poverty in Africa; the second report will explore ways to accelerate poverty reduction.

Being Fair, Faring Better: Promoting Equality of Opportunity for Marginalized Roma



By World Bank
Available On-line
February 2016; 233 pages
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0598-1
SKU: 210598

The book analyzes the existing gaps in access to opportunity for Roma in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary,

Romania, and the Slovak Republic and identifies those interventions that could help to successfully promote fair chances for disadvantaged Roma in these countries. Early investment in healthy and cognitive development and inclusive schooling, combined with the enactment of measures that promote access to employment and upgraded living conditions are likely to go a long way in leveling the playing field for marginalized Roma and thus promote equality of opportunity.

The Little Data Book 2016

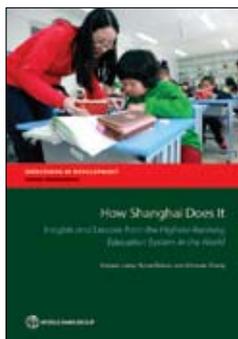


By World Bank
Available On-line
April 2016; Pages: 1 - 244
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0834-0
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0835-7

The Little Data Book 2016 is intended as a quick reference for users of the World Development Indicators database, book, and mobile app. The database covers more than 1,200 indicators and spans more than 50 years. The

214 country tables present the latest available data for World Bank member countries and other economies with populations of more than 30,000.

How Shanghai Does It: Insights and Lessons from the Highest-Ranking Education System in the World



By Xiaoyan Liang, Huma Kidwai and Minxuan Zhang
Available On-line
Published: April 2016;
Pages: 1-178
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0790-9
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0791-6
Directions in Development – Human Development

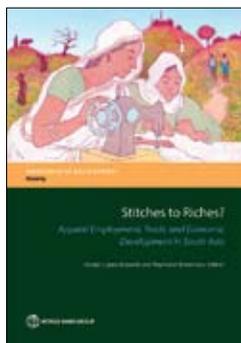
The Shanghai basic education system has

garnered significant attention since its extraordinary performance in the 2009 and 2012 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a global assessment of 15-year-olds' educational abilities.

Among the 65 participating economies in 2012, Shanghai-China ranked first on all three major domains of PISA, i.e. mathematics, reading, and science. Shanghai also stands out for having the world's highest percentage of "resilient students, students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who emerge as top performers.

Shanghai's PISA story has generated intense discussions and diverse speculations in the field of international educational development. This report presents an in-depth examination of how Shanghai scored highest in the areas of reading, science, and mathematics on PISA.

Stitches to Riches? Apparel Employment, Trade, and Economic Development in South Asia



By Gladys Lopez-Acevedo and Raymond Robertson
Available On-line
 March 2016; Pages: 1 – 204
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0813-5
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0814-2

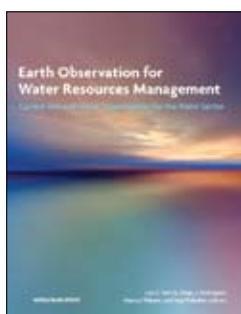
Apparel industry constitutes close to 40 percent of manufacturing employment. And given that much of apparel production

continues to be labor-intensive, the potential to create more and better jobs is immense. There is a huge window of opportunity now for South Asia, given that China, the dominant producer for the last ten years, has started to cede some ground due to higher wages. But the region faces strong competition from East Asia – with Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam already pulling ahead.

This report hopes to inform the debate by measuring the employment gains that the four most populous countries in South Asia – Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (hereafter ‘SAR countries’) – can expect in this new environment of increased competition and scrutiny.

Its main message is that it is important for South Asian economies to remove existing impediments and facilitate growth in apparel to capture more production and create more employment as wages rise in China.

Earth Observation for Water Resources Management: Current Use and Future Opportunities for the Water Sector



By Luis García, Diego Rodríguez, Marcus Wijnen and Inge Pakulski
Available On-line
 April 2016; Pages: 1 - 264
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0475-5
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0476-2

This book briefly describes some key global water challenges, perspectives

for remote sensing approaches, and their importance for water resources-related activities. It describes eight key types of water resources management variables, a list of sensors that can produce such information, and a description of existing data products with examples.

Earth Observation for Water Resources Management provides a series of practical guidelines that can be used by project leaders to decide whether remote sensing may be useful for the problem at hand and suitable data sources to consider.

India Project Documents

Second Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project

Date 29 March 2016
 Project ID P131235
 Report No. 104267 (Procurement Plan)

Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls & Young Women Project

Date 15 March 2016
 Project ID P150576
 Report No. PIDA35256 (Project Information Document – Appraisal Stage)
 ISDSA15473 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Appraisal Stage)
 SFG1879 (Indigenous Peoples Plan)

Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project

Date 09 March 2016
 Project ID P154525
 Report No. PIDA56746 (Project Information Document – Appraisal Stage)
 ISDSA16713 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Appraisal Stage)
 SFG1891 (Indigenous Peoples Plan)

Karnataka Health Systems Development and Reform Project

Date 09 March 2016
 Project ID P071160
 Report No. RES22733 (Project Paper)

2A Mumbai Urban Transport Project

Date 07 March 2016
 Project ID P113028
 Report No. RES22792 (Project Paper)

Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project

Date 03 March 2016
 Project ID P071160
 Report No. ISDSA17353 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Appraisal Stage)
 PIDA60363 (Project Information Document – Appraisal Stage)

First Programmatic Electricity Distribution Reform Development Project

Date 03 March 2016
Project ID P157224
Report No. 103586 (Program Document)
AB7821 (Project Information Document)

Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks

Date 15 February 2016
Project ID P154283
Report No. ISDSA16561 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet – Appraisal Stage)
SFG1815, 1826 (Indigenous Peoples Plan – Appraisal Stage)

Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihoods Improvement Project

Date 19 February 2016
Project ID P088520
Report No. 103553 (Procurement Plan)

24x7 - Power for all in Andhra Pradesh Project

Date 01 February 2016
Project ID P150576
Report No. PIDC32071 (Project Information Document – Concept Stage)

From the Blogworld

Measuring the economic potential of Indian districts

By Mark Roberts



As anyone who has travelled around the country will testify, India is marked by glaring spatial disparities in well-being. On the one hand, New Delhi is relatively prosperous, and if you visit the recently renovated Connaught Place, you will find not only a bustling outdoor market, but also designer shops, upmarket restaurants and a gleaming new metro station.

However, take the Prayagraj Express train east for seven hours and you will find yourself in Kanpur, which is one of the largest cities in the densely populated state of Uttar Pradesh, where per capita income is less than one-fifth its level in Delhi and the poverty rate is three times as high.

Such large variations in well-being are a natural cause for concern among India's policymakers and have generated intense interest in India's spatial landscape of potential for economic development. Is it the case that less prosperous parts of the country

lack the basic ingredients that can give rise to the high productivity that economists believe provides the key to well-being or is it the case that, while they may possess some of these ingredients, they are failing to make the most of them?

The Economic Potential Index

In an effort to provide some insights into both this and other key questions related to India's spatial development, we have recently published a working paper that examines underlying variations in "economic potential" across Indian districts.

Our analysis is based on a composite "Economic Potential Index" (EPI) that measures, in a single summary score, the extent to which a district possesses attributes that can be considered "universally" important to achieving a high local level of productivity, whether or not a high productivity level is currently actually observed.

Three Key Results

The map above shows the main EPI results. As can be seen, districts are classified into five different bands of economic potential depending on their exact EPI score. These bands range from "very low" to "very high" potential. The map helps to reveal several interesting patterns:

Levels of economic potential aren't simply randomly scattered across districts. Rather there is a notable clustering of districts with similar levels of potential. In particular, we have both high and low potential clusters of districts. While, the high potential clusters

are centered on India's major agglomerations (e.g. Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmadabad, Hyderabad, and Bangalore-Chennai), the low potential clusters tend to be located in the more peripheral regions of the country such as, for example, in the border regions with neighboring countries. Perhaps most notable in this regard is the linear cluster of low and very low potential districts that exists along the border with Nepal. This is on account of the fact that, unlike other low potential regions in India, this cluster is characterized by high levels of built-up area, which reflects the high population densities that exist in the North-east of India.

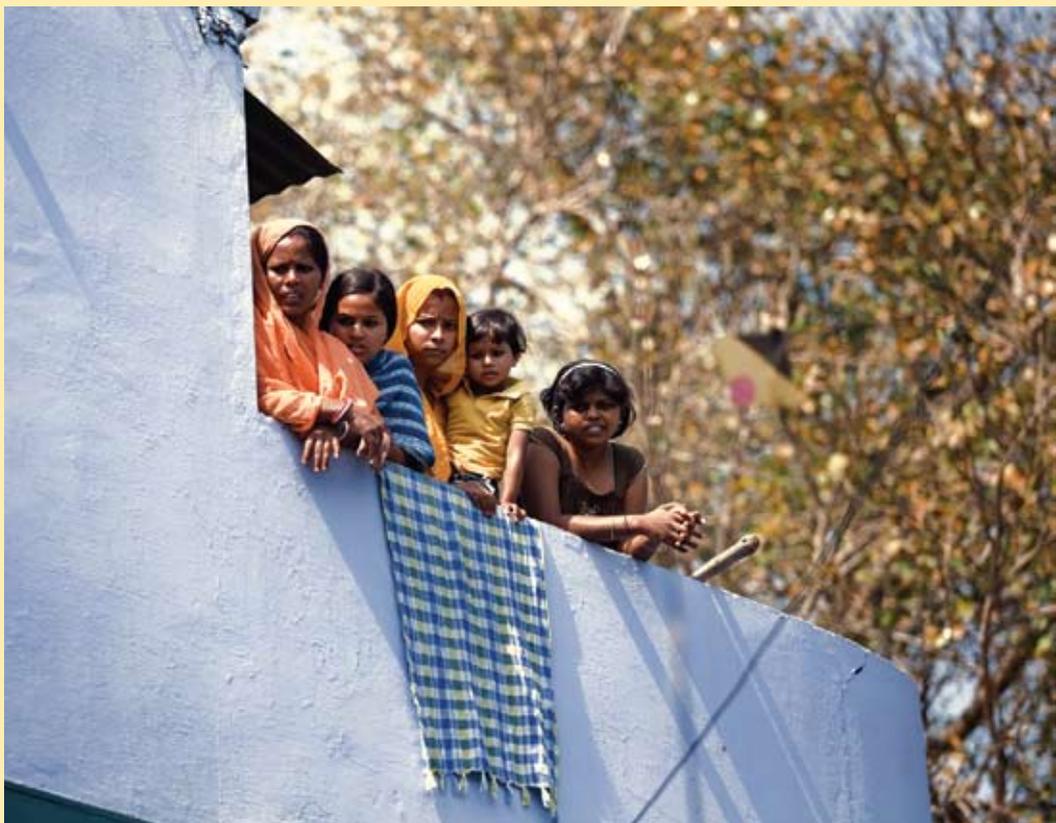
Even though the high potential districts tend to be concentrated in clusters around major agglomerations, these districts also contain numerous secondary and intermediate sized cities, not to mention so-called "Census Towns" (i.e. towns which are governed as rural areas, even though the Indian census recognizes them as urban). Indeed, out of the 233 urban settlements located in "very high" potential districts, 63 are Census Towns.

While the geography of economic potential depicted in the map resembles quite closely what we would see if we were to map levels of economic performance as measured by, for example, GDP per capita, there are clear examples of districts that

buck this trend and where performance diverges significantly from potential. Thus, if we return to our train journey from New Delhi to Kanpur then the district of Kanpur Nagar, in which the city of Kanpur is located, ranks alongside Delhi in having "very high" economic potential. This is despite the fact that, in GDP per capita terms, Kanpur Nagar lags far behind Delhi. More generally, we find that there is a high concentration of districts that are performing below potential in Uttar Pradesh. This is a sign of hope for India's densely populated Northeastern region where the bulk of the country's extreme poverty is concentrated. In particular, while it may not be reflected in current levels of observed performance, many of the districts in this region of India possess the key fundamentals required to achieving heightened levels of productivity and, with this, the reduction of levels of extreme poverty.

Our hope is that the EPI results presented here will add to the discussion of the key spatial development challenges that India finds itself faced with. Beyond that, the EPI also represents a much more general diagnostic tool that can be relatively easily applied to any country to provide preliminary insights into its geography of economic potential. 🌐

Read More: <http://tinyurl.com/h7yflpd>





Measurement matters in preschool quality

By Amer Hasan; Co-author: Nozomi Nakajima

Recent studies in neuroscience and economics show that early childhood experiences have a profound impact on brain development and thus on outcomes throughout life. A growing number of impact evaluations from low- and middle-income countries underscore the importance of preschool for children’s development (to highlight a few: Cambodia, Mozambique, and Indonesia). 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/z3lukbm>



Inspection Panel Launches “Emerging Lessons Series”

By Gonzalo Castro De La Mata; Co-author: Dilek Barlas

The World Bank Inspection Panel released the first in a series of reports that draw on the main lessons from its caseload over 22 years. The lessons are intended to help build the Bank’s institutional knowledge base, enhance accountability, foster better results in project outcomes and, ultimately, contribute to more effective development. 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/hz4vgfo>

Building safer cities for a volatile climate

By John Roome



Just consider some statistics. It’s estimated some 1.4 million people move to cities every week. And by 2050, we will add nearly 2.5 billion people to the planet, with 90 percent of the urban growth in that time taking place in developing countries.

Yet living in cities can be risky business. Many large cities are coastal, in deltas or on rivers and at risk from flooding from powerful storms or rising sea levels. Globally 80 percent of the world’s largest cities are vulnerable to severe earthquakes and 60 percent are at risk from tsunamis and storm surges.

Monsoons, flooding, and hurricane winds threaten to cause significant loss of life and the costly destruction of homes and other infrastructure. The devastation – terrible at any time – can be particularly bad in low- and middle-income countries, where about one billion people now live in vulnerable and informal settlements and ultimately harm poor people the most.

The statistics alone illustrate the need to strengthen the resilience of cities against climate hazards. Land use and effective building regulations can be a vital tool in helping build up the resilience of cities, and play a critical role in applying best practices and in guiding future investments and infrastructure development. But unfortunately, effective building regulation can often be lacking in the vulnerable regions that need them most.

In general, developed countries have successfully developed strong regulatory frameworks that can help avoid extreme losses. Many developing countries, however, have failed to adapt to local needs and ensure that adequate standards are implemented.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/hq5z27z>

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