

Journal of Social and Economic Studies

(Peer Reviewed Journal)

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and National Trends**

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ANSISS Section

**Implementation of Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009 in Bihar (India),
pertaining to Admission of Children from Disadvantaged Sections in Private
Schools (Report)**

Vidyardhi Vikas



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Health Poverty Metrics in India: Contrasting Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and National Trends

Rashmi Akhoury¹ and Krishnamurthy Prabhakar²

Abstract

Understanding regional disparities in health poverty is crucial for equitable development in India. Health poverty, defined as the inability to access and utilize healthcare due to financial and systemic constraints, presents a significant challenge and exhibiting stark regional disparities. This paper undertakes a comparative analysis of key health poverty metrics across two of India's most populous states, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (UP), benchmarking them against the national average. Utilizing data primarily from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-21), NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) reports (2023), and recent consumption-based poverty estimates, the study examines the health dimension of MPI, Out-of-Pocket Health Expenditure (OOPHE), disease prevalence, healthcare access, and health system infrastructure. Findings indicate that while both states significantly lag behind national averages, they present different poverty profiles. Bihar demonstrates higher multidimensional poverty (26.6%) and poorer health indicators. In contrast, UP exhibits higher consumption-based monetary poverty. This financial strain disproportionately impacts lower-income quintiles and leads to catastrophic health expenditure. These factors culminate in adverse health outcomes, including elevated Infant Mortality Rates (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratios (MMR), which are among the worst in the country. The paper concludes that substantial health poverty persists in Bihar and UP, driven by a complex interplay of low income, systemic healthcare gaps, and the limited effectiveness of financial protection schemes like Ayushman Bharat (AB-PMJAY) in mitigating the primary drivers of costs. Targeted policy interventions focusing on increased public health funding, enhanced rural healthcare infrastructure, and improved maternal and child health programs are crucial to reducing health poverty and bridging the developmental gap with the national average.

Keywords: Health Poverty, Multidimensional Poverty, Out-of-Pocket Expenditure, Policy Interventions, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar

Introduction

Health poverty, the condition which individuals and households are unable to access necessary healthcare services without suffering financial hardship, is a critical barrier to human development in India. This challenge is particularly acute in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which together account for over a quarter of India's population. Despite national progress, these states consistently lag behind in key health and development indicators. Understanding the magnitude and drivers of this disparity is essential for crafting effective and equitable policy.

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Maternal Healthcare Utilization and Mother's Formal Education Level: A Study of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 3–5 in Eastern India

Aditya Raj¹ and Nilanjana Gupta²

Abstract

The study aims to comprehend the relationship between maternal healthcare utilization and mothers' formal education level in India's eastern region (Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal). The analysis is based on data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Rounds three (2005–06) to five (2019–2021). The data comprise of married women between the ages of 15 and 49 years with at least one live birth in the past five years, comprising a total 78,467 women across NFHS (3-5). Bivariate and binary logistic regression analyses have been used to examine the association between maternal healthcare utilisation and mothers' formal education level. Results show that full ANC, institutional delivery, and PNC within 48 hours by skilled attendees have increased from 2005 to 2021 in eastern India and this improvement is positively related to the educational attainment of women in this age group. We learnt that the odds ratios (both adjusted and unadjusted) of maternal healthcare utilisation sharply increase with better education level of mothers. The analysis, therefore, emphasises the importance of education among mothers in improving access to maternal healthcare services. Thus, achieving formal education, being able to comprehend health education, and having an ecosystem of raising public health awareness, can further lower maternal mortality to an improved milieu of well-being for women in not just the eastern region but all over India.

Keywords: Education, maternal health, NFHS, antenatal care, postnatal care, Eastern India

Introduction

Maternal health is one of the significant public health concerns in developing countries (Debsarma et al., 2022). Maternal healthcare service utilisation encompasses antenatal care (ANC), skilled birth attendance, delivery care, and postnatal care (PNC), which are beneficial in treating pregnancy complications and minimising the burden of preventable maternal mortality (Adam et al., 2005; McCaw-Binns et al., 1995). In the early 1960s, India initiated maternal and child health campaigns focusing on family planning, immunization programmes for children, and maternal health services. Before the 1980s, maternal mortality was alarmingly high. To combat this issue, Reproductive and Child Health Care (RCH) services were prioritised, aiming to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. Studies have found that quality prenatal care, delivery care, and PNC contribute to

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India's Growth Performance and Threats Posed to Environment: Evidence from Time Series Analysis

Sweta Sharan¹ and Kajal Verma²

Abstract

Gross Domestic Product is generally used as an indicator of economic growth of any country. In the changing environmental conditions, it has now become important to include environmental degradation in traditional computational methods to obtain a more accurate measurement of the growth of an economy. Also, India's commitment towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires it to monitor the trend of CO₂ emissions and other factors affecting the environment. Environmental sustainability is the most important aspect of sustainable growth and development of the country. In the light of these facts, the present paper attempts to measure the variation between GDP and Green GDP of India. Time series data for more than fifty years have been used to analyze this variation. This provides a clear picture of how much environmental awareness programmes, meetings, conferences, and commitments towards sustainable development have been successful in reaching the goals of Agenda 2030. Also, the paper shows the trend of carbon emissions and the data have been compared with some of the most prominent G20 countries. The 18th G20 summit (9-10 September, 2023) hosted by India adopted a declaration committing itself to implement India's initiative of the 'Lifestyle for Environment Mission'(LiFE) and promote artificial intelligence to achieve the UN's sustainable development goals. The study also examines the pace with which India and the world are approaching towards green and sustainable growth.

Keywords: GDP, Green GDP, Sustainable Development Goals, Carbon Emission, Environment

Introduction

Economic development at the cost of environmental degradation is a concern for all nations. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the overall productivity indicator for a country and is also for comparing the development levels of different countries. The Industrial Revolution has emerged as one of the major factors behind development for almost all western countries. However, this industrial development involves both economic and environmental costs. Numerous climatic challenges such as the greenhouse effect, climate change, ozone layer depletion, etc., have drawn the attention of the whole world towards the environmental damage caused by various nations in developing their economies. A new concept for measuring economic growth has been introduced called 'Green GDP' which includes environmental costs in GDP and will present a better picture of growth. According to the United Nations the concept of 'Green GDP' was coined in the late

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Through Narratives and Lived Experiences: Understanding Tribal Adolescents' Education in Rural Jharkhand

Anuja¹ and Jaiwant Murmu²

Abstract

This paper explores the socio-cultural adjustment of tribal adolescents in rural Jharkhand through the lens of narratives and lived experiences. Drawing on in-depth interviews with adolescents (including those who have dropped out), parents, and a key informant engaged in the socio-economic issues of the tribal community, it highlights how formal education often alienates tribal learners by disregarding their cultural knowledge and identities. It delves into the theoretical frameworks of Amartya Sen's capability approach, Paulo Freire's critical pedagogy, and insights from neuroscience on synaptic pruning. Findings reveal that dropout is less an indicator of failure and more a rational response to systemic exclusion, a lack of contextualised pedagogy, and cultural dissonance. By centring Indigenous voices, the paper emphasises the need for culturally responsive schooling that affirms identity, fosters belonging, and empowers tribal adolescents to navigate both traditional and academic worlds.

Keywords: Tribal adolescents, Jharkhand, Lived experiences, Socio-cultural adjustment, School Dropout

Introduction

Education is primarily for acquiring skills, self-transformation and changing mindset with gradual exposure to knowledge. It is also to get liberated from the darkness of ignorance. However, it is also very important to widen opportunities by scaling up capabilities and achieving a better life through employment. The first human development report highlights that human development is a process of enlarging people's choices and that education is one of the engines of human development, and of enhancing capabilities. Sen and Dreze (1995) have highlighted five ways of freedom led by education i.e., intrinsic importance (education is valuable in itself), instrumental personal roles (learning skills for a better job), instrumental social roles (participating in democratic processes), instrumental process roles (understanding one's rights) and empowerment and distributive roles (advocating for collective well-being). Instrumental personal roles suggest that education, along with health, helps an individual not only acquire

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Occupational Segregation of Genderism in Nigeria: Are Women More Segregated?

Mubarak Saidu¹ and Chioma Eunice Akaebbe²

Abstract

Occupational segregation by gender remains a persistent challenge in Nigeria, shaped by cultural norms, social beliefs, and economic structures that disproportionately limit women's participation and advancement in the labour market. This study aims to examine the extent of occupational segregation affecting women in Nigeria, identify the underlying factors contributing to this phenomenon, and evaluate its implications for gender equality and economic development. The study adopted a cross-sectional survey, focusing on individuals actively engaged in the labor market, including both employees and job seekers. This study highlights key issues such as persistent occupational segregation with women overrepresented in lower-status, lower-paying roles and underrepresented in male-dominated fields like engineering and technology. Factors such as gender biases in hiring, wage disparities, pregnancy discrimination, and lack of supportive workplace policies perpetuate these inequalities. The conclusion affirms that women in Nigeria face significant and systemic occupational segregation, which limits their economic empowerment and undermines broader social development goals. To address these challenges, the study recommends comprehensive legislative reforms to explicitly prohibit gender-based workplace discrimination, the establishment of a dedicated National Gender Discrimination Commission, enhanced legal enforcement mechanisms, and mass awareness campaigns aimed at transforming cultural attitudes toward gender roles.

Keywords: Occupational segregation, gender inequality, labor market discrimination, women's empowerment, Nigeria, gender policy

Introduction

Globally, gender-based occupational segregation remains a critical concern, with women often concentrated in lower-paying, less secure jobs while men dominate high-status, technical, and leadership positions (World Bank, 2021). In Nigeria, this phenomenon is exacerbated by cultural norms, religious beliefs, and institutional barriers that systematically exclude women from certain professions (Adebayo and Ojo, 2022). Occupational segregation by gender is a persistent and deeply entrenched issue in Nigeria's labor market, reflecting broader societal inequalities that limit women's economic participation and career advancement (Mandu Ndem, 2025).

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Labour Market Analysis of Women Slum Dwellers: The Case of Slums in Turbhe, Navi Mumbai, India

Dolly Sunny¹ and Kanchan Zarekar²

Abstract

The information on labour market activities of women slum dwellers from Turbhe, Navi Mumbai, is presented in this paper. It includes details related to their education and skills as well as the types of employment, labour market characteristics, lack of trade union affiliation and types of labour market problems faced by the employer, discrimination in work and social security. The results of the sample survey show that the wage-employed, self-employed, casually employed and unpaid workers constitute the employed category. The study brings to light a query as to whether the women slum dwellers are getting marginalized and continue to find a place for themselves in the urban informal economy.

Keywords: wage-employed, self-employed, casually employed, unpaid workers

The economic factors affecting migration flows are significant and strong in the case of women slum dwellers in Turbhe, Navi Mumbai. Women in poor households in Turbhe have lower levels of education and training as seen from the outcome of the sample survey. They consider work as a proper state of being and work- the activity of doing something productive, is often used to evaluate the worth of others. The slum dwellers in Turbhe are not economically marginal who do not fail to value work or aspire to improve themselves economically. Many of them are not guaranteed a minimum wage and do not have social security benefits, illness compensation and retirement benefits. Employment and income insecurity are the main problems faced by informal workers in the slums. The survey noted that some respondents were not frank enough in reporting the shocks and vulnerabilities that they face during the work process from their employers, as they fear the current trend towards hire and fire practiced by employers in the age of employer militancy.

Review of Literature

According to the International Labour Organisation (1972), the characteristics of the informal sector are specified in seven criteria. They are ease of entry, reliance on indigenous resources, family ownership of enterprises, small scale of operation, often defined in terms of hired workers less than (say) ten, labour-intensive methods of production and adapted technology, skills acquired outside the formal school system and unregulated and competitive markets. Sethuraman (1976) and

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Mental Health and Social Inclusion of Marginalised Rural Women: Evaluating the Impact of JEEViKA in Bihar, India

Arman Alam¹ and Habibullah Ansari²

Abstract

Mental-health and social-inclusion are important indicators of well-being and empowerment of marginalized rural women. This study examines the impact of participation in JEEViKA Self-Help Groups (SHGs) on the mental-health and social inclusion of women in selected Gram Panchayats of East Champaran district of Bihar. Using mixed-methods within a correlational and inferential framework, the study included 300 participants, comprising 150 SHG members and 150 non-members. Purposive and systematic random sampling were applied to select districts, blocks, Gram Panchayats, and villages with the highest concentration of SHGs. Mental-health was measured using the 56-item Mental Health Inventory developed by Dr. Jagdish and Dr. A. K. Srivastava, while a self-designed questionnaire assessed social inclusion. Descriptive analyses showed that SHG members scored higher on both mental-health and social inclusion than non-members, and independent samples t-tests confirmed that these differences were statistically significant. Pearson's correlation revealed a moderate positive-association between social inclusion and mental health ($r = 0.564$, $p < 0.001$), and regression-analysis indicates that SHG participation significantly predicted mental health outcomes, explaining a substantial-portion of the variance. The findings suggest that involvement in SHGs promotes psychological well-being, social connectedness, and active community participation among marginalized rural women. These results underscore the role of SHGs in supporting not only economic-empowerment but also mental health and social integration. Policy efforts should focus on expanding SHG programmes and incorporating psychosocial support and community engagement initiatives to foster holistic development and well-being of rural women.

Keywords: JEEViKA, Self-Help Groups, Mental Health, Social Inclusion, Rural Women.

Introduction

Mental health and social inclusion represent fundamental dimensions of human development, social well-being, and gender equality. Women residing in rural and economically disadvantaged settings often encounter a range of interconnected challenges, including financial deprivation, gender-based inequalities, restricted access to essential resources, and social exclusion (World Health Organization, 2022). Within the Indian context, women living in rural communities, particularly

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ANSISS Section (Workshop Report)

Implementation of Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009 in Bihar (India), pertaining to Admission of Children from Disadvantaged Sections in Private Schools (Report)

Vidyarthi Vikas¹

Background

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act), which came into effect on 1st April 2010, enshrines for the first time in law the rights of all Indian children aged between 6 and 14 years to free and compulsory elementary education, regardless of caste, class, gender, or any other consideration. The Act translates the fundamental right to elementary education guaranteed under Article 21A of the Constitution of India and Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act stipulates that free and compulsory elementary education shall be provided to children admitted in Class I, to the extent of at least twenty-five percent of the strength of that class, including children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the neighbourhood, until the completion of elementary education. This provision is rooted in the values of equality, social justice, and democracy, which can be achieved only through inclusive elementary education for all.

Under Rule 7 of the Bihar Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, private unaided institutions are required to provide free and compulsory education to at least 25 percent of children from disadvantaged groups admitted to Class I or pre-primary classes, with reimbursement from the State Government at prescribed per-child rates. The per-child per-year reimbursement cost has increased from Rs. 4,350 in 2014-15 to Rs. 11,500 in 2022-23. Despite these provisions, progress in this direction in the state of Bihar has been minimal. Almost thirteen years have passed since the implementation of the Act, achievement has been limited largely to enrolment figures, with the State yet to fully ensure equality and inclusiveness for weaker sections in terms of learning outcomes.

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A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna was founded by the Government of Bihar in the memory of Dr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, one of the key architects of modern Bihar. It was inaugurated on 31st January, 1958 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India. It was, however, made a statutory autonomous body on 8th October, 1964 under the A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies Act, 1964. The institute is governed by the Board of Control and funded by the Department of Education, Govt. of Bihar and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) through Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. Presently, it is one of the most prestigious Social Science research institutes in India. It has been recognised by the ICSSR, as the Centre of Excellence in the field of Social Science research.

Since its inception, the institute has been working with a broad theme of development and change through multi-disciplinary approach. The institute runs a full-fledged doctoral programme affiliated with Aryabhatta Knowledge University and supported by the ICSSR. It has produced more than 160 Ph.Ds. in social science and has also completed more than 300 research projects and published more than 160 books. The institute is actively involved in research, teaching as well as training and dissemination.

The institute has been expanding its academic networks through collaborative research and entering into Memorandum of Understanding with Stanford University, U.S.A.; University of Nottingham, U.K.; Institute of Poverty Alleviation and International Development, Yonsei University of South Korea; and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal. The institute has acquired high status in the scholastic world by virtue of the quality of its academic activities. Efforts have usually been to produce knowledge base, within appropriate theoretical and conceptual framework of social science research.