

STUDIES COMPLETED DURING 2008-2009

S.No.	Theme	Funding Agency	Commenced Month/Year	Completed Month/Year
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(Theme-1) Agriculture and Rural Development

1.	Rethinking Collectivities: Institutional Innovations in Group Farming, Community Forestry and Strategic Alliances - Bina Agarwal	Individually Initiated	March 2008	December 2008
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Abstract:

This study argues that the poor in rural South Asia need the strength that collectivities can offer for their economic, social and political advancement. Such collectivities, however, would have to be voluntary, participative, egalitarian and bottom-up to avoid the inefficiencies and human costs associated with earlier efforts. Revisiting the idea and history of production collectivities, it traces why earlier efforts failed, in particular forced collectivization under socialist regimes such as in the USSR and China, and collective farming attempted in many non-socialist countries in the 1960s and 1970s. It emphasizes that new collectivities would need to be built on very different principles. The study outlines examples of successful collective approaches to farming and community forest management in South Asia while also pointing to their limitations in terms of scale and geographic reach or inadequate gender inclusiveness. It suggests how these limitations can be overcome.

2.	Agricultural Prices and Futures Trading: Interactions and the Transfer of News -Sangeeta Chakravarty -Nilabja Ghosh	Individually Initiated	Dec 2008	May 2009
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Abstract:

Real life experiences have not dispelled the deep suspicions that surround the futures market. Price behaviour of wheat, maize and chana in India are modeled using time series approach to confirm the positive effect of future price movements on prices. Also a positive effect on the volatility only in maize is observed. The results however indicate that any positive movement of price enters as an input to increase the futures price raising the conjecture that the content of new information in the futures price may be limited.

3.	Trade Liberalization's Effect on Volatility: The Experience of Indian Agriculture -Nilabja Ghosh -Sangeeta Chakravarty	Individually Initiated	2008	April 2009
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Abstract:

One of the serious apprehensions hampering negotiations on Trade liberalization is about the effect on market volatilities and the resultant implications for supply of products. In view of the contrary results suggested in theoretical and empirical literature, this study takes a time series approach to model volatility of agricultural crop prices facing farmers to enquire whether trade liberalization has indeed increased unpredictability of prices.

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| 4. | Forecasting Agricultural Output Using Agro-Meteorological, Space and Land Based Observations (Fasal)
- Nilabja Ghosh
- C.S.C. Sekhar
- Sangeeta Chakravarty
- Sailesh Kumar
- Yogesh Bhatt | Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India | 2008 | 2009 |
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Abstract:

Reliable and timely estimates of agricultural output is playing an increasingly important role in Indian economy especially for planning food procurement, stocks, imports and exports and for projecting inflation. FASAL aims to enhance the existing capability of the Government and is building up a model for forecasting area and yield rates under various crops along with the necessary data base for the purpose of providing early estimates of production.

In this year FASAL presented estimates obtained for Kharif crops in 2008-09 at the level of All India and states. Subsequently, for the Rabi season of 2008-09 FASAL reported the complete forecasts in respect of all the specified crops for all India and states. The kharif forecasts for the year 2009-10 are currently under finalization

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| 5. | Viable Entrepreneurial Trade for Women in Agriculture
- Nilabja Ghosh | Ministry of Agriculture | 2004 | Revised report submitted in 2008 |
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Abstract:

The study coordinates nine surveys conducted in various parts of country studying the entrepreneurial activities of women in farm households. The study reviews the literature on women's empowerment, analyses secondary data from NSSO and compares and analyses the effects of women enterprises provided by the survey based regional studies.

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| 6. | Problems and Prospects of Crop Insurance in India
- Nilabja Ghosh | Ministry of Agriculture | 2004 | Revised report submitted in 2008 |
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Abstract:

The project currently critically examined the beneficial role of India's crop insurance programme (NAIS) for agricultural development, viewed the extent of problems that are usually associated with insurances and studied the appropriateness of the design by looking at the risk profiles statistically.

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| 7. | Public Policy and Agricultural Development: A Case Study of Commercialized Agriculture
- Brajesh Jha | Ministry of Agriculture | April 2004 | July 2008 |
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Abstract:

In the emerging trade order relative prices of tradable commodities have changed with the integration of domestic and external market. With suitable reforms in the domestic market relative prices of non-tradable commodities will also change. These changes in the relative prices of commodities will influence farmers' resource utilization pattern; this in turn would affect future growth of agriculture in a region. In this perspective, it is necessary to assess impact of alternate public policies on the long-term growth of agriculture in a region. The factors that affect the long term growth of agriculture in a region vary across regions depending on the state of natural resource in that region, in that sense this is a case study of the Northwest India; this region has also been in the forefront of commercialization

therefore micro-level impact of changes in agricultural policies at macro-level would be more profound.

8. Agriculture Diversification in
India
- **Brajesh Jha**

Ministry of
Agriculture

April 2004

October 2008

Abstract:

Agricultural diversification through horticultural crops has received increased attention of policy makers in recent years. The present study attempts to study trends in agricultural diversification at all India level including the state of Haryana. Interestingly, the state of Haryana presents trend different than the country at the aggregate level; area under fine cereals is still increasing in Haryana, unlike other states of the country. The determinants of agricultural diversification have been assessed at macro-, meso- and micro-levels. Intensive cultivation of fine cereals in the North West India has serious economic, ecological and social implications. Likely implication of crop diversification for availability of food in the country has also been studied in detail. The study finally suggests strategies for accelerating the pace of diversification in India in general and Haryana in particular.

(Theme-2) Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

1. Rule Making in Community Forestry Institutions: The Difference Women Make
- Bina Agarwal
- Individually Initiated - February 2009

Abstract:

Forest use rules determine what products are extracted from community governed forests, in what quantity, by what methods, and by whom. Such rules and the process of their formulation can prove critical for institutional sustainability. This is well recognized in the substantial literature on environmental collective action. Yet there is surprisingly little work on, or statistical testing of, gender differences in rule making. This paper, based on the author's primary data for India and Nepal, fills this conceptual and empirical gap. It examines why we might expect gender differences in rules made, and statistically tests whether the gender composition of the executive committees – the main decision making bodies of community forestry institutions in South Asia – makes a difference to the strictness of those rules.

2. Does Women's Proportional Strength affect their Participation: Governing Local Forests in South Asia
- Bina Agarwal
- Individually Initiated August 2008 March 2009

Abstract:

The gender and politics literature has long debated how women's proportional strength affects policy formulation within legislatures. Studies on gender and environmental governance have focused mainly on women's limited participation in local institutions. Both bodies of work leave important aspects unexplored. The former neglects *the in-between process* - the impact of women's numbers on their effective participation, such as attending meetings, speaking up at them, and holding office. The latter neglects to ask: what would be the impact of increasing women's proportions and what proportions are effective? Also are any critical mass effects? Rigorous empirical analysis is also scarce. Based on the author's primary survey on community forestry institutions in India and Nepal, this paper addresses these gaps and seeks to provide some answers.

3. Gender and Forest Conservation: The Impact of Women's Participation in Community Forest Governance, *Ecological Economics*, 2009
- Bina Agarwal
- Individually Initiated December 2008 March 2009

Abstract:

Would enhancing women's presence in community institutions of forest governance improve resource conservation? This paper focuses on this little addressed question. Based on the author's primary data on communities managing their local forests in parts of India and Nepal it statistically assesses whether the gender composition of a local forest management group affects forest conservation outcomes, after controlling for aspects of institutional functioning, forest and population characteristics, and related factors. It is found that groups with a high proportion of women in their executive committees show significantly greater improvements in forest condition in both regions. Moreover, all-women ECs in Nepal have better forest regeneration and canopy growth than other groups, despite receiving smaller and more degraded forests.

4. Economic Implications of IDSA April 2008 November 2008

Climate Change for India
- **Purnamita Dasgupta**

Abstract:

This study reviews the existing understanding on the likely impacts of climate change on India and identifies the channels through which economic impacts are likely to occur. It contextualises the adaptation and mitigation challenges in terms of socio-economic differentiation within the Indian economy.

(Theme-3) Globalisation and Trade

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| 1. | Is the Export Led Growth Hypothesis Valid? A Reexamination of the Empirical Evidence
- Pradeep Agrawal
- Ranjan K. Dash | Individually Initiated | July 2008 | April 2009 |
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Abstract:

In this paper, we carry out causality tests separately for the export promotion and import substitution phases and by including the real exchange rate in the analysis as another important variable. We carry out tests for five developing countries in the import substitution stage and seven in the export promotion stage. In all cases of import substitution, either GDP growth causes exports or there is no causal relation between them. In all cases of export promotion, export growth causes GDP growth or at least there is bi-directional causality. These results provide strong support for the validity of the export led growth hypothesis during the period when export promotion or liberal trade policies are followed.

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| 2. | Subsidies Discipline on Natural Resource Pricing
- B.N. Goldar
- Anita Kumari | UNCTAD | September 2007 | January 2009 |
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Abstract:

The study is undertaken in the context of current negotiations aimed at clarifying and improving disciplines under the Agreements on Anti Dumping and Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. The questions asked are: whether the practices of dual pricing of natural resources and price control of natural resource based products are prevalent in India, particularly in the power, mines and minerals sector, and whether such practices by other countries are adversely affecting India's export interest or leading to increased domestic cost of refined products. One important component of the study is to forecast India's requirements of natural resources for the period 2005-14.

(Theme-4) Health Economics and Policy

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| 1. | A Study of Out-of Pocket- Expenses on Drugs and Medical Services: An Exploratory Analysis For UP, Rajasthan and Delhi
- Moneer Alam
- R.P. Tyagi | Planning
Commission | April 2008 | May 2009 |
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Abstract:

This filed based study was designed to examine the incidence and correlates of health catastrophe among low income rural, urban and slum households in selected areas of UP, Rajasthan and Delhi. Along with the catastrophic expenditure, attempts have also been made to examine the major components of health expenditure including drugs and diagnostics to pin point the item/s responsible for the catastrophe. Drugs were found to be the biggest component with around 80 percent of the households' health budget going to the single item. Drug pricing is therefore a major policy issue. A cursory analysis of the NRHM was also made. While the mission is getting positive response from health seekers, it hardly meets the health care requirements of the rural people. Incidence of catastrophe is found among users of public health care facilities as well.

Full report will shortly be uploaded on the website of the Planning Commission.

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| 2. | Determinants of Adherence and Treatment Outcomes in the Free Antiretroviral Treatment Programme of the Government of India
- Indrani Gupta | World Bank | January 2007 | December 2008 |
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Abstract:

The research is collaboration between IEG and the World Bank, Washington DC. It is a longitudinal study in 4 sites to understand the determinants of adherence and treatment outcomes of patients on the Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) programme of the Government of India. Adherence is critical to ART not only for patients but also in halting the spread of resistant strain of the HIV. In any such free programme, it is important to understand what factors play a key role in minimizing non-adherence, including socioeconomic, demographic and other clinical or facility level variables. Some other key variables are treatment outcome, measured by CD4 data and mortality rates.

(Theme-5) Industry and Development

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| 1. | Status quo for Foreign Banks in India
- In Defense of the Current Monetary
and Credit Policy
- Ashis Taru Deb | Individually
Initiated | December 2008 | May 2009 |
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Abstract:

The study seeks to explore the issue of further deregulation of foreign banks in India by raising a set of interrelated questions. It conducts statistical tests to show that the foreign banks in India operate on the basis of financial exclusion and are more dependent of foreign banks on off-balance sheet activities and non-interest earnings as compared any other banking group. Their contribution to product innovation, development through infrastructure finance and priority sector lending, has been minimal. The study discusses the accepted international practice with regard to regulation and argues that current regulatory regime of foreign banks in India is quite liberal. Their corporate offices located in other countries will dictate the policies of the foreign banks, which will always not be in tune with our national priorities. The balance of arguments points against further deregulation of foreign banks in India and supports the stand adopted by the recently announced in the annual monetary and credit policy. It is argued that more freedom should be granted to foreign banks only when they reorient their strategy so that they cater to weaker and un-banked sectors and achieve inclusive growth across the economy.

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| 2. | Socio-economic Conditions of
Adhunik, Shyam and Balaji Group
Project Area, West Bengal
- Dibyendu Maiti | West Bengal | May 2008 | February 2009 |
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Abstract: **Nil**

(Theme-6) Labour and Welfare

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| 1. | Impact of Trade on Employment
Generation in Manufacturing in India
- B.N. Goldar | National Commission
for Enterprises in the
Unorganised Sector | January 2009 | March 2009 |
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Abstract:

The impact of trade on manufacturing employment is assessed. It is found that exports had a favourable effect on industrial employment, but the positive effect of export increase was offset by the negative effect of increases in imports. The net effect was marginal. The failure of trade to raise industrial employment is traced primarily to the changing product composition of trade and the changing direction of trade. Petroleum products have emerged a major item of India's exports whereas the traditional labour intensive products have lost their share. The analysis reveals an adverse effect of changing factor prices on manufacturing employment.

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| 2. | Productivity Increase and Changing
Sectoral Composition: Contribution
To Economic Growth in India
- B.N. Goldar
- Arup Mitra | Individually
Initiated | - | April 2008 |
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Abstract:

The study analyses how productivity increase and changing sectoral composition in India have contributed to an accelerated economic growth in the post-1980 period. Though there has been a major shift in the composition of GDP towards services and this has contributed to the overall growth in India, it is the secondary sector which is the lead sector in the medium to long run.

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| 3. | Impact of Trade on Employment
Generation in Services Sector in
India
- Arup Mitra | National Commission
on Unorganised Sector
Enterprises | January 2009 | March 2009 |
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Abstract:

This study focuses on the impact of trade on services employment both in the organized and unorganized sectors. After controlling for growth the effect of trade is found to be negligible.

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| 4. | Women Employment in Asia Pacific
Region
- Arup Mitra | Individually
Initiated
(prepared for UNDP
conference) | - | March 2009 |
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Abstract:

This study assesses the labour market inequality from the gender point of view and examines if reduction in labour market inequality contributes to inequality reduction in other areas such as health and education, and improves the overall status of women.

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| 5. | Population Ageing and Labour Market Implications
- N. Ghosh,
- B.N. Goldar
- Arup Mitra | Individually Initiated | June 2008 | March 2009 |
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Abstract:

This study argues that rise in life expectancy without improvements in work opportunities has led to an increased competition between the older and the younger workforce. This has resulted in a decline in the wage rate of the workers in higher age brackets.

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| 6. | Urbanization in India: Issues and Facts
- Arup Mitra
- Basudeb Guha Khasnobis | Individually Initiated | - | - |
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Abstract:

This study examines the pattern of urbanization in India, explores the possibilities of locating agglomeration economies and assesses the effect of city size on well-being.

(Theme-7) Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy

1. Sustainability of India's Economic
Growth
- **Purnamita Dasgupta**

Individually
Initiated

December 2007 - October 2008

Abstract:

This study explores macroeconomic data particularly on investment and consumption in India to understand the sustainability of the economic growth experienced over the past three decades. Sustainability is defined in terms of wealth creation, and includes natural and human capital apart from manufactured assets.

(Theme-8) Population and Human Resource Development

1. Engaging with Sen on Gender Relations: Individually August 2008 November 2008
Cooperative-conflicts, False Perceptions, Initiated
and Relative Capabilities
- **Bina Agarwal**

Abstract:

This study engages with three aspects of Amartya Sen's work, each of which relates to a dimension of intra-household gender relations. The first applies his work on cooperative-conflict within families and his entitlement approach to famines to explain why families might break-up during famines and what this reveals of intra-family gender relations. The second contests his claim that women in traditional societies suffer from false perceptions about their self-interest and so become complicit in perpetuating gender inequalities. And the third uses the context of domestic violence to demonstrate the importance of relative capabilities (and not just absolute capabilities) in determining well-being outcomes. In the process, the study also highlights the critical role played by women's property status in determining their well-be

2. Ageing, Socio-economic Disparities Individually January 2007 March 2009
and Health Outcomes: Some Evidence Initiated
from Rural India
- **Moneer Alam**

Abstract:

Using Census 2001 and preceding two NSS rounds, this study examines: (i) inter-state variations in size of rural aged by broad social groups, (ii) temporal changes in their per capita monthly consumption expenditure, (iii) health conditions by age and social groups, and (iv) socio-economic correlates of old age health, current and relative, etc. A few notable observations are: (i) ageing in India is a wide spread phenomenon, (ii) aged are mostly concentrated in rural areas, (iii) feminization of ageing, widowhood and rapid growth of *older old*, and (iv) old age health is critically dependent on socio-economic conditions including access to public health facilities.

The paper is already accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the Indian Journal for Human Development

3. Development, Demographic Change Individually July 2008 April 2009
and Migration: A Study of Two Hilly Initiated
States of India
- **R.S. Bora**

Abstract:

The process of development brings demographic transition, population stabilization and improvements in the quality of life. In the light of these observations, this study describes about the prevailing structure of economy, recent trends in population, and the extent and causes of migration. In the context of multi-dimensional development process the changes taking place in Uttarakhand are being compared with those in the neighbouring state of Himachal Pradesh as well as in the country. Since Uttarakhand was bifurcated from U.P, some of the characteristics of U.P state are also shown.

Our findings reveal that Himachal is better placed in terms of sectoral economic growth, development and stability. In population fronts Himachal is all set to meet the national population policy targets, its population have entered in to the optimal period for reaping the benefit from the demographic dividend, in these respects Uttarakhand is lagged behind. With the result of these disparities, the volume of migration and its intensity is higher in Uttarakhand. The beginning of the Uttarakhand state is late, now only state policies and its correct role can reduce disparities and imbalances.

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| 4. | Increasing Masculinity in Child Sex Ratio: Some Emerging Issues
- R.S. Bora | Individually Initiated | November 2007 - October 2008 |
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Abstract:

The deterioration of child sex ratio (0-6 age group) has run parallel in many Indian states. In spite of several Acts and legislations to protect a female child, there is no clear sign of change in increasing masculinity in child sex ratio. In the light of the sharp increasing masculinity in child sex ratio, this study discusses about the level and pattern of the sex ratio, the factors or the reasons that are causing the deficit of girls, the status of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, (PNDT Act) in most affected states. Finally some of the Policy implications that educate the couples and society about the adverse consequences of the increasing masculinity in child sex ratio have been discussed. There is no widespread public opposition and out cry against female feticide. PNDT Act is not acceptable in the most affected states, therefore legislations and Acts are not needed, what is needed is to change social behaviors. Shifting behaviour is a lot tougher than passing laws.

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| 5. | Assessment of Incidence of RTIs/STIs in Uttaranchal
- S.C. Gulati
- Suresh Sharma
- Raghubansh Mani Singh
- Arundhati Kumari | National Commission on Population. MoHFW Government of India | - July 2008 |
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Abstract:

The study highlights net effects of selected socioeconomic, demographic, and cultural factors on the prevalence and treatment seeking behaviour for reproductive health problems among currently married women in Uttaranchal. Symptomatic information on reproductive morbidity comprising of obstetric, gynaecological and contraception complications, was elicited from 694 currently married women aged 15-49 years by canvassing additional questionnaire along with the main schedules employed in our DLHS-RCH survey in Uttaranchal. Further information on treatment sought, if any, for RTIs from private or public health services was elicited from 296 women suffering from RTIs. The study employed the binary logit regression technique for analyzing the prevalence and multinomial logit analysis for treatment seeking behavior. Overall we find that prevalence of RTIs in the selected districts was 43 percent and treatment was sought by only 27 percent of the suffering women from RTIs/STIs. Abysmally low utilization of public health services for treatment of RTIs even by the vulnerable sections of the society comprising poor, illiterate and rural women depict extremely low credibility or non-availability or inaccessibility of effective public health services for treatment of RTIs. Also significantly higher prevalence of RTIs among women using sterilization and IUD compared to non-users of contraception also depicts negligence in post-operative or post-insertion care compounding the reproductive morbidity in India. Women suffering from vulva related complications, like itching or boil/ulcers over the vulva region, and intercourse related complications, like bleeding or pain during intercourse, depict much higher propensity of seeking treatment for RTIs. Strict enforcement of statutory age at marriage for girls would not only reduce fertility and pregnancy wastage but would also result into positive externalities like alleviation of reproductive morbidity in India.

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| 6. | Sex Differentials in Child Health and Nutritional Status in India
- Suresh Sharma | Individually Initiated | July 2007 - November 2008 |
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Abstract:

Son preference, or the privileging of sons over daughters in accordance to a patriarchal system, is a growing phenomenon in India. The data for the study is drawn from the NFHS-2. The main objective of this paper is to examine the patterns of gender differences for children in the north state of Haryana in India for health outcomes. Analyses results the gender bias as prevalent in health enclashing treatment for immunization. The living status of a family does not matter in the biased preference for a boy child; whether the family is rich or poor, the lower nutrition food is confined to a girl child only.

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| 7. | Family Planning Methods and Programmes in India
- Suresh Sharma | Individually
Initiated | January 2007 | March 2009 |
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Abstract:

The Family Welfare Programme in India has experienced significant growth and adaptation over the past half century since its inception in 1951. The objectives of this paper are to trace the roots of this change in orientation, document the program's achievements to date and examine the challenges that remain at the policy level, at the implementation level and also review evidence from surveys and studies conducted in the 1990s. Declining fertility in large part is due to women's increased use of contraception. This raises the question of whether the focus, priorities and responsibility of the family planning programme should remain the same in the future.

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| 8. | Childhood Mortality and Health in India
- Suresh Sharma | Individually
Initiated | April 2007 | July 2008 |
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Abstract:

Childhood is a significant stage of life and deprivation during this period can have long-term adverse impact on the wellbeing of children. The focus of this study is to examine the determinants of childhood mortality and child health in India and the factors explaining the differential performance of the child immunization and treatment of childhood diseases. The analysis reveals that infant mortality continues to decline and the decline in child mortality is even more pronounced. The results have interesting social and policy implications and indicate several promising lines of research.

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| 9. | Education for ALL in Rural Himalayas:
A Study of Uttarakhand
- Suresh Sharma
- Nilabja Ghosh | NIRD | February 2006 | April 2008 |
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Abstract:

EFA decade in India witnessed unprecedented dynamism and policy determination in the spread of school education across rural India with attention to quality. An econometric analysis with household survey data however reveals unevenness and traditional areas of disadvantage lingering in diffusion of school education with respect to generation, gender, location and social class. Even after the elapse of the EFA decade, the governments working in the state needs to address these disparities by attending specifically to the marginalized sections namely female citizens, the minority religion or backward caste, remote villages, higher altitude less developed districts.

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| 10. | Rural Urban Disparity and Rural bias against Income Opportunity:
A Study of Uttarakhand
- Suresh Sharma
- Nilabja Ghosh
- Sabyasachi Kar | NIRD | May 2006 | April 2008 |
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Abstract:

The paper examines rural urban disparity with a focus on income opportunities. Income disparities are subjected to statistical testing among the three districts and between the sectors in these districts. Further, econometric analysis is used to show that the rural sector lags due to non-educational factors, due to lesser access to higher education and because the same education provides unequal opportunities of income the sectors. In order to eliminate inequality in income, a policy of educational dispersion should be supplemented by an attention to the quality of education, attention to higher education and other non-educational factor that sustain the disparities in earning opportunities.

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| 11. | Urban-rural Differentials in Maternal and Child Health in Uttar Pradesh
- Suresh Sharma | Individually
Initiated | December 2006 | August 2008 |
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Abstract:

This study examines urban-rural differentials in maternal and child health (MCH), and the factors influencing net change in MCH input, its utilisation and its output between the Indian National Family Health Survey (NFHS-I&2). Health input, utilization and output showed a positive net change, which indicated an improvement in health facilities. The increase in health facilities and their utilization contributed to positive health indicator output. Overall, urban-rural differentials still existed and the Indian government must take the necessary steps to improve MCH programs, including the provision of information and education campaigns, and sending dedicated health personnel to remote and inaccessible rural areas in order to reduce child mortality.

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| 12. | Shortages and Surpluses: Changing Female-male Ratios in Younger and Older Ages: Policy Implications in South Asia
- R.P. Tyagi | Individually
Initiated | July 2008 | March 2009 |
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Abstract:

The age-sex structure of population is an important basis for social and economic planning in a country. In India during the post Independence period there has been substantial changes in the age-sex structure. The juvenile (in the age group of 0-14 years) female-male sex ratio (FMR) has fallen at the all India level. On the other hand in the age group 60-64 and 65+ the FMRs are above 1000 according to the 2001 Census. There are a number of factors for these high FMRs of the aged population. This study has looked into some of the explanatory factors for these phenomena of low sex ratios at the younger ages and high FMR at the older ages. One of the important explanations for low juvenile sex ratio being put forward is the rampant practice of female feticide. The high FMR at 60+ reflect the feminization of ageing with the associated problems like widowhood and problems of loneliness. It also examines the existing programmes and policies being adopted to counter these phenomena, both at official and non-official level and the likely implications in India and other neighbouring South Asian countries.

(Theme-9) Social Change and Social Structure

1. The Middle Classes in India: Identity, Citizenship and the Public Sphere
- **Amita Baviskar** Ford Foundation March 2007 March 2009

Abstract:

This project organized a joint programme of research, research training and dissemination on the role of the middle classes in fostering democratization and civil society engagement in India. The aim of the study was to spur the discussion on 'civil society' beyond theoretically abstract, ethnographically anaemic debates towards more empirically grounded knowledge. Activities included the organization of an international conference (papers to be published as an edited volume), a training workshop for doctoral researchers, and a dissemination workshop for academics and activists.

2. Sociological Perspectives on Indian, Forestry
- **Amita Baviskar** Rights and Resources Initiative May 2007 March 2009

Abstract:

India's rapid economic and social transformation since 1990 has major implications for forest-users. This study's approaches the issue of forest-use, dependence and access on the understanding that a 'sectoral' focus on forestry (one that focuses primarily on forest management, trade and use) needs to be supplemented by an appreciation of the larger political-economic context that critically affects forest-related practices and policies. It examines the effects of shifting dynamics of political power and economic wealth as well as cultural perception. It analyzes some of the major social and cultural changes since the 1990s and outlines their potential implications for forestry.

3. Invoking Ibsen, Staging Realism: Marathi Theatre Discourse and the Advent of the Talkies
- **Veena Naregal** Individually Initiated - 2009

Abstract:

Ibsen's name is an important and recurring motif in the discourse of the Marathi theatre for the years after the First World War, even if the first regional renderings and adaptations of the Norwegian playwright's works date to the early 1940s.

The sangeet-natak (upper-caste dominated musical theatre) had emerged as the supremely successful form epitomizing the new Marathi middle-class sensibility between 1880-1920. This paper explores the significance of the emerging discourse around Ibsen as part of subsequent efforts to create a space for a non-musical, quasi-realist theatrical practice that could challenge the dominance of the sangeet natak mould.

The advent of cinema induced many critical shifts in theatrical practice that went beyond the circulation of artistes and personnel to affect audience expectations, stagecraft and design, acting and production techniques, duration of performance and publicity techniques. Further, even as the talkies sounded the death-knell for touring professional theatre companies, this juncture seemed to open new opportunities for segments of the Marathi theatre-world to reinvent themselves in the form of a new amateur urban theatre via espousing the cause of realism.

Examining rival invocations of Ibsen and Bjornson's plays in Marathi theatre discourse for the 1930s and 40s, this paper argues for the work of the Natyamanwantar Natak Mandali (est. 1933) as well as the biographical/critical writings and texts of Marathi playwrights of this period, including S. V. Vartak, M. G. Rangnekar, Anant Kanekar and Mama Warerkar to be situated within the above context. Further and more specifically, the paper will consider three play-texts [Vartak's *Andhalyanchi Shala* (1931), Anant Kanekar's

Gharkul (1941) and Rangnekar's Kulavadhu (1942)] along with their performance histories, as diverse but inter-dependent instances of the ensuing efforts to forge a contemporary realistic aesthetic vis-à-vis the Marathi stage under the sign of Ibsen.

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| 4. | 'Gender: Addressing Unequal Power and Voice' Technical Background Paper on Gender Identities, Histories and Norms for the Asia Pacific Human Development Report (AP-HDR) The Background Paper will be utilized in reporting on MDG 3 ('Gender')
- Sanjay Srivastava | The Human Development Report Unit for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo | November 2008 April 2009 |
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Abstract:

This project carried out an examination of gender identities, norms and history for the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The project was preliminary to a background paper that was prepared for the Asia-Pacific Human Development Report (AP-HDR) whose key theme is 'gender'. The AP-HDR is being prepared by the UNDP's Colombo office. The project sought to understand the causes and persistence of gender inequality in politico-legal, economic, social and cultural realms. Anthropological, historical, and gender and feminist studies frameworks were employed to examine the construction of masculine and feminine identities across a large sample of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

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| 5. | 'Tupperware Sexuality: Consumption, Morality and the Search for a Controllable Modernity'. Keynote lecture, University of Rio De Janerio Brazil
- Sanjay Srivastava | Individually Initiated | - September 2008 |
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Abstract:

This paper is about certain sites of urban sexual cultures in India. These include mainstream womens magazines, popular sexological magazines, cheaply produced footpath pornography, and sex-clinics that attract large number of relatively poor urban men searching for medicines for sexual performance and male strength, cure for impotence, and ways to beget male progeny. This discussion is about certain sites of urban sexual cultures in India. These include mainstream womens magazines, popular sexological magazines, cheaply produced footpath pornography, and sex-clinics that attract large number of relatively poor urban men searching for medicines for sexual performance and male strength, cure for impotence, and ways to beget male progeny. Hence, the discussion explores the coming together of sexuality, consumption cultures and ideas of class in a number of different contexts. The paper also explores how the contexts of sexuality, consumption and class are related to the emergence of the female consumer as an object of interest for advertisers and marketers. And, finally, this paper is about how discourses on heterosexuality and consumersim come to delineate ideas of agency, empowerment, and an authentic Indianness.

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| 6. | Masculinities, 'Religious Fundamentalism' and the Culture of the City
- Sanjay Srivastava | Individually Initiated | - September 2008 |
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Abstract:

Religious fundamentalism, it has often been suggested, is grounded in movements of cultural nationalism and

primordialism, in turn articulated through ideas of reclaiming an original and whole state of being otherwise fragmented by religious Others. This discussion explores the lives of Hindu fundamentalists as active male subjects of global capitalism through focusing upon their spatialised engagements with the city in order to both interrogate and supplement this perspective.

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| 7. | Classifying Spaces, Specifying Classes: Citizens, the State and Disney-divinity in Delhi, in Amita Baviskar and Raka Ray (eds.) We're Middle Class: The Cultural Politics of Dominance in India. Routledge
- Sanjay Srivastava | Individually Initiated | - | October 2008 |
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Abstract:

This paper is about the uses of space in the making of urban identities and, in particular, some ideas that might gather around the notion of a modern middle-class identity. Middle class is, of course, a very vast and somewhat amorphous term, so the unstated background to my discussion is the idea that in India there are several self-definitions of what it is to be middle class, and that a very large number of groups, with quite different socio-economic characteristics, describe themselves as middle class. The paper explores the ways in which specific processes such as consumerism and specific spaces such as the Akshardham Temple in Delhi are sites for the making of new urban identities.

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| 8. | Modernity, Class and Sexuality in India
- Sanjay Srivastava | Individually Initiated | - | November 2008 |
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Abstract:

This paper explores the different ways in which diverse cultural flows -- those relating middle-class identities, consumerism, 'tradition', gender identities etc. -- combine to produce a sense of a 'break' from the past. The paper outlines the ways in which there are indeed breaks from the past in the manner in which 'India culture' is visualised today, but also continuities that circumscribe this vision of the 'new'.

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| 9. | Urban Spaces, Post-nationalism and the Making of the Consumer-citizen in India', submitted to Gender, Place and Culture. A Journal of Feminist Geography
- Sanjay Srivastava | Individually Initiated | - | December 2008 |
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Abstract:

This article explores the relationships between urban spaces, the state, new cultures of consumption, and the making of middle-class identities in India. These contexts are explored through an investigation of the twentieth-century history of private real-estate developments, cultures of new urban spaces (such as gated residential enclaves), activities of Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs), and, middle-class activism in urban affairs. The decline of the Nehruvian state and the rise of the neo-liberal one is an important context for the present discussion. (January 2009)

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| 10. | Fragmentary Pleasure: Masculinity, Urban Spaces and Commodity Politics in Delhi', Submitted to Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute | Individually Initiated | - | January 2009 |
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- Sanjay Srivastava

Abstract:

This study brings together three contexts gender, urban spaces and consumer culture in order to explore the lives of a group of young men who belong to the Bajrang Dal, an all-male organisation of the Hindu right with strong roots in North India. This is not, however, a study of the religious Right in India. Rather, the discussion explores the different ways in which the lives of so-called religious fundamentalists connect with the processes of contemporary capitalism to produce quite specific senses of non-middle class masculine identities. In particular, the paper investigates the ways in which urban masculine identities are constructed through strategies of the fragmented rather than the unified self. It suggests that the fragmentary politics of the self is a useful tool for understanding both the expression of male power as well as its articulation with contemporary consumer culture.

11. Keynote Lecture, prepared for 'SEPHIS: - - February 2009
South-South Exchange Programme for
Research on the History of Development',
Workshop at the School of Women and
Gender Studies, University of Dhaka
Theory and Methodology in the Study
of Masculinities and Sexualities
- Sanjay Srivastava

Abstract:

Sexualities studies begins with the assumption that it is deeply problematic to think of sexuality as a natural phenomenon. So, the most significant questions have to do NOT with whether such and such behaviour is inborn', rather: what is the meaning that a particular culture gives to that behaviour'. And, then, what are the consequences for individuals with respect to the cultural meanings different kinds of sexual behaviours are given. Following the above framework, this study outlines the historical, social and cultural contexts for the study of sexualities in South Asia. It draws upon exiting theoretical frameworks and suggests how they might be modified in order to more fruitfully capture the specificities of the cultures of our region.