

**DOES CORRUPTION GREASE OR SAND THE WHEELS OF GROWTH?
PANEL EVIDENCE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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Abstract: This paper assesses the impact of corruption on economic growth in the European Union between 1995 and 2019. Using panel data analysis, the corruption-growth nexus for the 27 members of the European Union is assessed. The results suggest a growth-decreasing effect of corruption. Furthermore, the impact tends to worsen when quality of governance is low. This supports the “sand the wheels” hypothesis, and contradicts the “grease the wheels” hypothesis which states that corruption may mitigate the costs of bad governance. In addition, this paper analyses whether corruption affected growth differently in Central European and Western European countries. The paper finds conflicting results in the impact of corruption in Central European and Western European countries.

Keywords: Panel data, Corruption, Institutions and growth, Economic growth, European Union, Governance

**HOW WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ENHANCE THE
LIVELIHOOD OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS? A CROSS SECTIONAL
SURVEY**

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Abstract: Developing countries which are heavily dependent on rain-fed agricultural system, watersheds are increasingly being managed for poverty alleviation and environmental conservation. Watershed management practices should have a big role in improving the livelihoods of the households but the reality is unknown due to dearth of studies. Hence, the objective of this paper is to explore the effect of watershed management practices on the livelihood of rural households in Bona Zuria District of Ethiopia. An analytical design with mixed research approach was adopted to address the specific objectives. Required data were collected from 182 randomly selected households from two purposefully selected villages. Collected data were analysed with SPSS and STATA software. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, mean, standard deviation and inferential tools like chi-square test, one sample t-test and binary logistic regression were used for analysis. The findings reveal that the majority of respondents were involved in physical soil as well as water conservation practices, due to which

natural resources conservation has been improved in the study area. Economically, the households benefited from generating additional income and an increase in crop productivity. All this somewhat enhanced their livelihood. However, there are challenges in practice of watershed management. Therefore, local community participation, access to markets, expanding the use of agricultural technologies, and strengthening local institutional capacity are imperative to improve livelihood and realize the goals of watershed management practices.

Keywords: Watershed management practices, Livelihood, Rural households, Ethiopia

CAUSALITY OF MACROECONOMIC VARIABLES IN GENERATION OF NON-PERFORMING ASSETS OF INDIAN COMMERCIAL BANKS

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Abstract: This study is conducted to find the impact of macroeconomic variables on Non-performing Assets (NPAs). A total of four variables –Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Exchange rate (ER) and NPA –have been used for the period of 23 years, i.e., from 1997 to 2019. The study finds a cointegrating equation reflecting some long-run associations among the variables. There exist both short-run and long-run causalities running from the independent variables towards NPA. However, bidirectional causalities running from NPA to GDP and from GDP to NPA at 5% level of significance are also observed. Besides, unidirectional causalities running from FDI towards NPA and from ER towards NPA are observed at 10% level of significance.

Keywords: Non-performing asset, GDP, Exchange rate, Foreign direct investment, Granger causality, VECM.

HAS MALE OUT-MIGRATION INCREASED TIME POVERTY AMONG LEFT-BEHIND WIVES IN KERALA? EVIDENCE FROM GULF MIGRATION

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Abstract: Kerala has a long experience of Gulf migration. The repercussions of Gulf migration and the inflow of remittances are witnessed in every facet of the Kerala economy. The nature of Gulf migration from Kerala is predominantly gendered and temporary. In migrant households, the absence of male family heads demands more involvement of left-behind wives in housekeeping, decisions, household maintenance, and care work. It leads to a disproportionate allocation of their daily or weekly time

between paid, unpaid domestic and non-work activities. Thus, the study's primary objective is to understand the time use pattern and extent of time poverty among left-behind wives in Kerala. The findings of the study indicate that, on average, the left-behind wives spent relatively more hours in a day on household maintenance and care work, and social and cultural activities than married women in non-migrant households. However, they spent less time on personal care and leisure activities than married women in non-migrant households. In migrant households, the absence of male family heads causes to increase the incidence of time poverty among left-behind wives. In addition to that, various individual and household level variables also influence the incidence of time poverty among left-behind wives.

Keywords: Migration, Left-behind wives, Time use, Discretionary time, Time poverty,

EMPLOYMENT VULNERABILITY IN URBAN LABOUR MARKET: EVIDENCE FROM FORMAL ENTERPRISES IN UTTAR PRADESH

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Abstract: Gender inequality in labour markets is significant in terms of the sex distribution between formal and informal employment and within the informal economy. The distinction between formal and informal employment is of importance for policies related to gender issues. Therefore, an attempt has also been made for measuring gender inequality in formal labour markets through the analysis of multidimensional nature of vulnerability in formal and informal employment. The specific objectives of the paper are: firstly, to measure the risk of vulnerability related to employment in the urban formal market with the help of the multidimensional vulnerability index; secondly, to construct the multidimensional vulnerability index separately for formal and informal workers; thirdly, to assess the differentials in the vulnerability status of informal and formal workers in Uttar Pradesh; and lastly, to test the extent of vulnerability of female formal and informal workers in terms of nature and quality of employment, social security and job security compared to their male counterparts.

Keywords: Employment vulnerability, Formal enterprises, Vulnerability index, Female workers

DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP: A CASE STUDY OF INDIA

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Abstract: The turn of the new century witnessed India to be significantly expanding its development assistance – both in terms of volume and diversity – thereby, transforming itself into a donor. Today, India has been recognized as the new pole of growth in the world economy. While having a high incidence of poverty and hunger in its own country, India contributes to the development of other nations in need. As a result, India prefers to be referred to as “development partners” rather than “donors”. While India’s assistance distribution has climbed to levels equivalent to many smaller industrialised nations, this data is not comprehensibly available. Because India, along with other major southern donors, does not report its data to the OECD, the phenomenon of India’s foreign aid remains little recognized and appreciated. This paper tries to make an important contribution to identifying India’s approach to the development assistance programme. This paper will examine the positioning of India in the international development assistance framework, its volume, its sectoral allocation, and its geographical orientation which transforms its status to an emerging donor in the broader context of how the form and scale of India’s development assistance influence the total scope of overall international aid.

Keywords: Foreign aid, India, Development cooperation, Bilateral assistance

IMPACT OF RURAL LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITY ON MIGRATION: A META-ANALYSIS

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Abstract: Globalization has both beneficial and detrimental effects on our contemporary lives. The era of globalization has witnessed increasing vulnerability and migration. The relationship between the two will hold the key to the understanding of increased migration as the viability strategy to mitigate or reduce vulnerability and the contribution of vulnerability to migration. In this context, the study aimed to determine the nature and extent of the relationship between vulnerability and migration. The study used systematic review and meta-analysis under the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) convention. In this study, the odds ratio (OR), i.e., the odds for migration, was taken as the effect size for the meta-analysis and the vulnerability was identified in terms of household livelihood vulnerability indicators. After analyzing the pooled effects sizes of the odds ratio of migration by different

vulnerability indicators at the household level, the study has found that the livelihood vulnerability significantly influences migration.

Keywords: Migration, Livelihood, Vulnerability, Rural household, Meta-analysis

INDIA'S RURAL EMPLOYMENT SCENARIO: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Abstract: Sectoral transformation from a rural subsistence agriculture based economy to an urban monetised industrial and service led economy is generally accepted as signs of development. It is also expected that these changes will accompany the economic growth process in a reasonably capitalistic economy like India, at least after the neo-liberal structural adjustment programmes started since 1990s. However, India's rural employment scenario is an enigma. While GDP share of agriculture has dwindled remarkably, its share in employment does not show signs of similar decline. Whatever changes have taken place are also questioned as to whether they are signs of positive dynamism or that of distress. This paper attempts to examine the complexity of changes in rural labour market in India over the last decade to untangle this riddle. A multi-pronged strategy of human capital formation, transforming rural non-farm business and augment returns from agriculture is necessary to improve the scenario. Opportunities are there but structural challenges must be overcome to reach those goals.

Keywords: Rural employment, Rural labour market, Rural transportation

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES AMONG VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS: A CASE STUDY OF SLUM DWELLERS IN SELECT CITIES IN INDIA

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Abstract: The dual shock of the outbreak of COVID-19 and its associated lockdown had an adverse impact on the economy, especially on the urban labour market across the globe. In the Indian context, this external shock related to the pandemic outbreak had a strong and negative impact on the already weak labour market characterized by high unemployment rates and a large share of workers engaged in informal work.

The macro picture of the labour market based on secondary sources fails to unmask the nature and the extent of the impact on the employment conditions of low-income and less educated urban workers. To bridge the gap, this micro-study based on a survey of 1208 households living in slums of 10 cities intends to see the impact of lockdown on the livelihoods of urban households living in slums and their survival mechanisms to deal with

their rapidly changing economic conditions. The study reveals that the principal source of income of a large share of slum households was affected during both phases of lockdown, but the impact was more severe during the first wave due to the stringency of the lockdown. The vulnerable casual wage workers, whose income levels vary depending on their daily participation in the labour market, have been affected more compared to the salaried workers with some job or income security. However, the second wave had harsh adversities on a large section of regular salaried workers, pushing them to the threshold of poverty. Overall, around two-thirds of the principal earning members of the surveyed households could resume their livelihood or diversify their livelihood opportunities in the subsequent period of the lockdown. It is noted that self-employment was a survival strategy for slum dwellers. Therefore, the policy focus needs to consider self-employment as a coping mechanism to economic shocks.

Keywords: COVID-19, Lockdowns, Urban labour market, Job loss, New poor, Survival mechanism and self-employment

WOMEN'S LABOUR CONTRIBUTION AND DECISION MAKING POWER: EVIDENCE FROM GUJARAT

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Abstract: Women's participation in farming-related activities has been increasing in rural India, but the question is: has it improved autonomy in decision-making or raised their status at home or in the community? This paper – based on the findings from a large, questionnaire-based survey in Gujarat – shows that women's burdens have increased, but the benefits that have accrued to them have not been concomitant. It raises the question of 'preparatory work' that women perform in agriculture, on and off the farm, to bring women's concerns to light that this work remains largely invisible. It is argued that while reporting sex-wise activity status on the field, all the sub-activities or sub-components of a particular activity need to be considered carefully; otherwise, the coding of 'activity status' is gendered. The paper concludes that if farming in India is to thrive and provide its farmers fulfilling lives and its citizens affordable food, Indian policymakers need to address this imbalance, because many rural women are discontent with the compulsions of having to perform additional work in agriculture and would much rather perform non-farm, home-based activities.

Keywords: Women in agriculture, Preparatory work, Decision-making, Control over incomes, Rural India

EXPLAINING GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN URBAN INFORMAL LABOUR MARKET OF UTTAR PRADESH

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Abstract: The paper explores the level of gender discrimination and impact of various factors on females' probability of getting discriminated in unorganised sector of urban Uttar Pradesh. Gender discrimination at the workplace is imperceptible and is reflected in the nature of work performed, valuation of the skills and the technology used by men and women. The main objective of this paper is to analyse the gender discrimination and its contribution to the gender-social group based wage gaps in India. Using data from the primary survey conducted in Uttar Pradesh in 2018-19, the paper analyses occupational segregation based on intersectional axes of gender and social groups by categorising wage workers according to the gender and social groups and estimates average wage gain or loss to each group due to their occupational segregation. The results show that the participation of female labour force is more as part time employees and gender segregation of total employment is more pronounced as casual workers in the unorganised sector in urban Uttar Pradesh, thus establishing that goal of equality in labour market remains a distant dream.

Keywords: Informal employment, Wage inequality, Labour force participation, Unorganised labour market.

SAFETY AT WORKPLACE, HEALTH AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN AHMEDABAD

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Abstract: The manufacturing industries are often found to be associated with risks of morbidity and mortality that raise the concern of policy makers regarding the introduction and sustenance of various safety measures at those industrial units. Using data collected through a primary survey before the onset of Covid-19 Pandemic during 2019-2020 this paper makes attempt to: a) ascertain the status of safety and health of workers at factories in selected manufacturing industries in Ahmedabad; b) discuss their working conditions and, c) discuss the governance of occupational safety and health. In the process of understanding the issues of health and safety at the factories the paper also highlights how the workers perceive their safety and health issues along with their working conditions. The results are useful in highlighting the status of occupational safety and health of workers as well as the challenges pertaining to governance of in the manufacturing industries in Gujarat for effective formulation of policies.

Keywords: Ahmedabad; Manufacturing sector workers; Gujarat; Occupational safety and health; Working conditions