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About the photograph:
 A rural school off old Manali
 village. Students enjoying the
 sun outside the class room

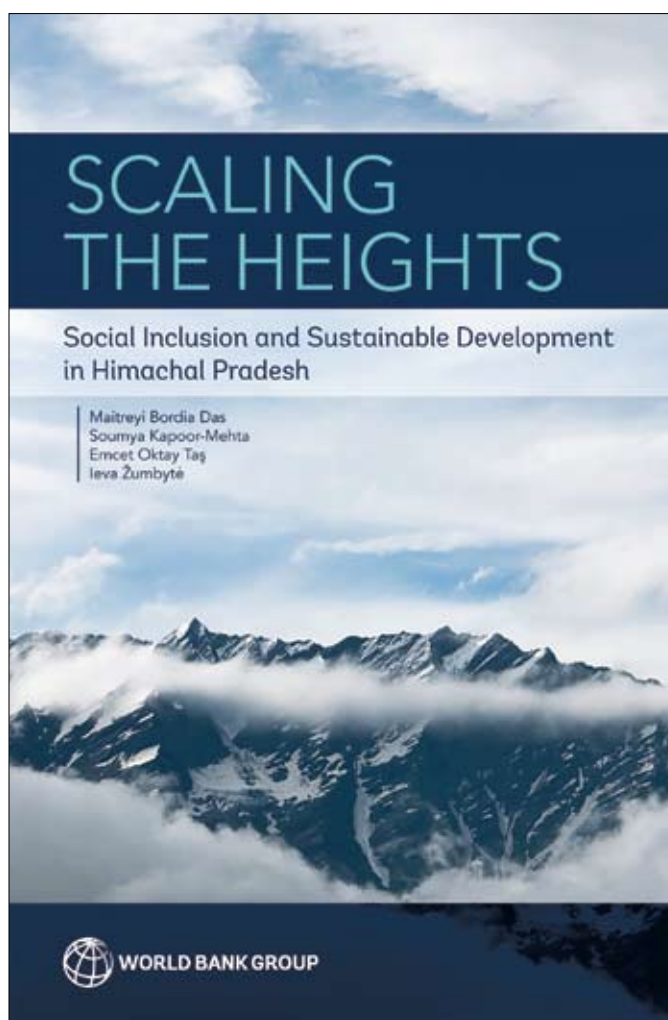
Photograph by
 Tanushree Sengupta

Himachal Pradesh is set to enter a new phase of growth

We started with a standard warm-up question as Gangi Devi, our first respondent, sat in anticipation. "Tell me a little bit about your society. What is distinctive about the Himachali way of life?" A smile lined up a face creased otherwise with wrinkles. "We are a peaceful society," she said after thinking a little. "People here are good to one another, we stand by each other." A person sitting next to her added for good measure, "We Himachalis are very innocent people (*hum bade seedhe saade log hain*)." And the smiles deepened.

For those working in the development space in India, Himachal Pradesh remains an anomaly for many reasons, not least of which is Gangi Devi's

near puritan response. Gangi Devi lives near a tourist centre close to Shimla, which has seen increasing tourist footfall in recent years. Even as her community is debating the costs and benefits of increased activity around their village, Gangi Devi and her neighbours trust that the state government would keep people's interests in mind and take into account any negative impacts on people and the environment before promoting new activities. Their belief in the government is supported by real actions. Himachal is the first state in India to ban the use of plastic bags; smoking in public spaces in the city of Shimla is punishable by law.



Good governance in Himachal looks doubly impressive when considered against an enviable track record of good outcomes. Despite being predominantly rural (90 percent of the state's residents live in villages, which makes Himachal the most rural state in India), Himachal's per capita income is the second highest in the country. The state has achieved a four-fold decline in rural poverty in the last two decades. The proportion of residents

who have completed post-secondary education is the highest across northern states. And most villages are close to being 'open defecation free'. Further, and this is one of the most impressive facts about Himachal – good outcomes hold true for all social groups, including the traditionally excluded scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, who tend to perform worse than other groups in other states in India.

In a new World Bank report, "*Scaling the Heights: Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh*," we document Himachal Pradesh's achievements and look at the factors that may have helped the state sustain good outcomes. The report is the first macro-social account of the state's development record, and simultaneously, an inter-disciplinary attempt to understand the confluence of factors that allowed Himachal to move towards inclusive outcomes. We also prognosticate whether these drivers will sustain in the future and highlight some development issues the state government will have to deal with as it moves toward a new phase of growth that focuses on investments in watersheds, hydropower projects, tourism and development of private industries.

Undertaken as part of a policy engagement between the World Bank and the Government of Himachal Pradesh to promote inclusive green growth, the report draws on several data sources. It uses data from multiple rounds of the National Sample Survey (NSS), the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), and the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) to examine changes in land and labor markets; access to education, health, and sanitation; and overall poverty reduction. In addition, it draws on focus group discussions and key informant interviews held in the districts of Shimla and Solan, which elicited local perceptions around the state's current growth trajectory and the changes that people had witnessed in the economic and social landscape of the state. Finally, the report is informed by discussions that the authors held with over 300 informants during 2012-2014, including village residents like Gangi Devi, as well as government officers, civil society, private sector representatives, and researchers who conducted ethnographic work across Mandi, Kinnaur, Bilaspur, Shimla and Solan districts.

Photo by Neil Palmer (CIAT)



The report highlights real stories of transformation in Himachal which look more noteworthy considering they occurred within a generation and benefited all social groups. Himachal Pradesh's greatest success in driving inclusive outcomes is illustrated by its record on reducing poverty. Poverty headcount in the state dropped from 36.8 percent in 1993-4 to 8.5 percent in 2011, a decline that is impressive by any standard. More importantly, poverty reduction benefited all social groups, who were also cognizant and appreciative of the change.

Most of the people we met, be it a scheduled tribe man in a hydropower project site or a scheduled caste farmer in a watershed area, appreciated the investments made by their government in physical and social infrastructure – all weather roads, new schools, colleges. They spoke vividly about how changes in tourism, hydropower and the watershed sectors have led to more jobs in hotels, in services, and on farms. They also spoke about the availability of banking and credit sources and how these have contributed to their improved economic status. Most women reported themselves

Photo by Neil Palmer (CIAT)



as being employed, in line with data sources that show that Himachal's rural female labor force participation rate of 63 percent is the second highest in India.

What have been the drivers of Himachal Pradesh's success? There are many who suggest that Himachal's status as 'special category' state may have made it easier for it to access development funds and to expand infrastructure and service delivery through large-scale programs. While this may be true, it does not explain why the Government of Himachal Pradesh invested its resources responsibly, why such investments

Photo by Michael Foley



led to positive outcomes, and how the state maintained inter group equity. *Scaling the Heights* sheds some light on these questions.

Our analysis suggests that the foundations for progress in Himachal were laid by early land reforms that redistributed land among the traditionally landless (mostly the scheduled castes). But there were also institutional and socio-cultural factors, innate to Himachal that helped the state strengthen the inclusive outcomes brought in by the reform. The report highlights, for instance, the role played by a committed state bureaucracy, which constantly innovated on policies to ensure inclusive and sustainable development. It also highlights how the state's unique culture – underpinned by religious homogeneity, a cohesive caste



structure and small settlements – may have led to a milieu of interdependence and high local accountability. It refers to the state’s rich ethnographic studies to show how positive gender norms may have enabled strong participation of women in development programs. It also speaks to the very nature of Himachali society – peaceful and participatory, organized around a common reverence for the bounty of nature around them, and trusting in their government (as alluded in Gangi Devi’s testimony) – which may have created a cohesive, stable, social contract for change.

Will these correlates of Himachal’s progress remain robust as it moves forward on a path of infrastructure-led growth? Looking ahead, the report identifies areas in which the state can make further progress and reflects also

on issues that may follow from the state’s previous successes. Among the state’s existing concerns are its adverse child sex ratios and the high level of child malnutrition, with one-third of the state’s children under-five either underweight or stunted.

The state is also likely to face new challenges in the same areas in which significant progress was made in the past. For instance, while the state has ensured that more children complete secondary education, ensuring that they acquire the skills required by an economy in transition will be an important policy issue going forward. Similarly, while investments in infrastructure have helped improve development outcomes in rural areas, many of these outcomes currently appear worse in urban areas. As urbanization levels increase, the state will have to ensure that urban residents are able to access basic amenities and partake in the opportunities that cities have to offer. Finally, our qualitative discussions document time and time again that although people’s attitudes toward development are positive; their support for growth depends on the extent to which the environmental and social heritage of Himachal Pradesh will be preserved.

Given Himachal Pradesh’s strong record of good governance and development outcomes, *Scaling the Heights* argues that





the state is well-positioned to address the new challenges posed by economic change and the expectations of its citizens. For development practitioners working in contexts that want to move toward social inclusion, the vivid story of Himachal Pradesh that Gangi Devi and many others aptly describe, presents invaluable lessons on maintaining good outcomes even as citizens and the state negotiate the realities of change. 🌐

This article was contributed by Soumya Kapoor Mehta and Emcet Oktay Tas.

Scaling the Heights: Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh is authored by Maitreyi Bordia Das, Soumya Kapoor Mehta, Emcet Oktay Tas and Ieva Zumbyte. To download the report, visit the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/k5z42lg>



Towards universal health coverage



The economic case for universal health coverage is strong. Recent studies show reduced mortality alone has increased the productivity of low and middle income countries, contributing as much as 11 percent to their economic growth. However, scaling up public health investments alone will not suffice. It will be equally critical to improve accountability, says Onno Ruhl, World Bank India Country Director and Somil Nagpal, Senior Health Specialist

On Friday, 12 December, for the first time the world celebrated universal health coverage day. On this day two years ago, the United Nations unanimously endorsed a resolution urging governments to ensure that all people can access healthcare without financial hardship.

Until now, most people in India have dug deep into their pockets to pay doctors, pharmacies and diagnostic centres. Paying in this manner – or out-of-pocket spending, as it is called – has been the norm for a long time in India but this is not how most of the world pays for healthcare. In most other countries, including some less developed ones, out-of-pocket spending is far less

common than we think. It is far more likely that people pay their medical expenses in some organized manner, such as through tax-financed healthcare or some form of health insurance.

The high share of out-of-pocket spending incurred by Indian households makes them more vulnerable to impoverishment, and every year millions are pushed below the poverty line by catastrophic medical expenses alone.

This first-ever universal health coverage day comes at an opportune time for India. The country has joined the growing number of nations that have placed universal health coverage firmly on their agenda.

Indian policymakers are now deliberating on expanding health coverage in a big way so that all segments of the population are covered for their health needs. The economic case for universal health coverage is strong. Recent studies show reduced mortality alone has increased the productivity of low and middle income countries, contributing as much as 11 percent to their economic growth.

The much-awaited national health assurance mission (NHAM) is a welcome effort in this direction. Till now, this sector has not only been plagued by low levels of public financing, but the effectiveness of the money spent on healthcare by both the public and private sectors has been low. To add to that, there are accountability challenges in public health systems, and out-of-pocket health expenses continue to pose a huge and unnecessary burden on the people. The success of NHAM will depend on critical reforms in the health sector.

Now, both central and state governments are willing to raise their levels of health spending. They have also introduced a number of initiatives to improve health services, particularly for the poor and vulnerable.

Government health spending is estimated to have risen to 30 percent of the country's total health expenditure – up from about 20 percent in 2005 – while out-of-pocket payments have fallen to about 59 percent, dropping from 69 percent a decade ago.

But while these initiatives are a promising start, the government's current share of health spending is still not commensurate with India's level of socioeconomic development. In fact, the average for other lower middle income countries is over 38 percent of total health expenditure, while in China government spending accounts for 56 percent. It must also be remembered that while scaling up public health investments is important, this alone will not suffice. It will be equally critical to improve accountability, focus on results, ensure value for money, and renew the focus on reaching out to the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Uniquely, India's recent strides towards universal health coverage have followed a bottom-up approach, starting with coverage


of the rural population and the poorest groups, and rapidly scaling up to larger segments of the population.

Two prominent national programs have been at the forefront in this regard: the national rural health mission (NRHM)—now rechristened the national health mission and being further expanded in urban areas—and the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). In addition, several state programs have sought to expand access to surgical care for poor and vulnerable groups.

In Karnataka, for instance, the Vajpayee Arogyashree Scheme, a state government program supported by the World Bank, provides free hospitalization coverage to households below the poverty line for high-impact medical conditions such as cancer and heart disease. The program pays for hospital care and treatments that the poor would have difficulty receiving without the help of the scheme. A recent evaluation published in the *British Medical Journal* found that the program has lowered both mortality rates and out-of-pocket expenses for the people who received this cover.

These programs have generated several insights that can help guide the proposed NHAM in scaling up health cover, so that people across the country receive a seamless continuum of care that encompasses primary, secondary, as well as tertiary health services.

At the same time, the central and state regulatory and implementing agencies will need to develop new skills to ensure that patients remain safe and receive quality healthcare from both public and private providers. Designing and implementing India's ambitious effort towards universal health coverage will certainly not be easy but it is necessary. There is much to learn from what has worked – and what has not – within the country and elsewhere, which should make the task more manageable.

The world is willing to help; India's journey towards this ambitious goal will not be alone. 

This article was originally published in the Mint newspaper on 16 December 2014

Defying stereotypes, Chandigarh's women bus conductors make their mark

Submitted by Sangeeta Kumari; Co-author: Kanchan Parmar; Edited by Vinita Ranade



If you thought Indian women would shy away from working in that traditionally male preserve – the formidable public transport system – think again. Young women in Chandigarh are daring to turn stereotypes on their head by signing up in large numbers to work as bus conductors! And that too on regular public buses, not just on female-only ‘ladies specials’.

Delhi too is catching up. Its 50 female bus conductors – most operating on four major routes – are already getting a thumbs up from travellers.

Not surprisingly, it was in Chandigarh – where some remarkable social and cultural transitions are taking shape – that the women blazed the trail.

In 2013, when city transport authorities decided to recruit women bus conductors – an undoubtedly bold move for a rough profession – they were in for a big surprise.

In an overwhelming response, more than 4,000 women applied for some 80 plus conductors’ jobs. And these weren’t just modern young women from urban family backgrounds; many hailed from rural areas and some even came from as far afield as the neighbouring state of Haryana.

After a stiff written test, 72 women were shortlisted, and more than 70 signed up. To keep them safe on the job, the Chandigarh police armed the girls with self-defence training.

Routes were allotted keeping the women’s concerns in mind; for instance, women with young children to look after were given routes closer to home.

Women make a difference

Now, three months later, the impact of these 70 intrepid pioneers is becoming visible, even though they are still a small fraction of the 3,000 strong staff on the authority’s rolls.

The quality of services on the women’s routes has improved. Buses are now more punctual and stop at designated places to pick up and drop off passengers, allowing enough time for the young and elderly to board and alight with ease.

Passengers find the women’s behaviour impeccable; there hasn’t been a single complaint against them for misconduct, in sharp contrast to the often unscrupulous behaviour of their male counterparts.

Interestingly, the women’s presence has started to make a dent on the long-standing driver-conductor nexus that has long worked against the interests of the commuting public, particularly of the comfort and safety of women passengers.

As a result, more people are beginning to use public transport, and fare collections are rising.

Still a way to go

But how easy has it been for these women to buck the trend in such an exclusively male preserve? Have the public at large – as well as their male colleagues – been able to fully accept these women in positions of authority over a mostly male travelling public? And, most importantly, are the women safe in their jobs?

A few weeks back, I boarded a Chandigarh bus that had a woman bus conductor on board. Passengers, both male and female, seemed to be pleasantly surprised and supportive of the women doing these jobs.

However, the ticket-checkers pointed out that most women conductors insisted on working only day-shifts that end at 6 pm. I could sense their obvious reluctance to accommodate the women's demands. They also said that the women lacked the confidence to accost those travelling without a ticket. Nevertheless, I am positive that with time, the system will adapt to the women's needs.

Still, more can be done to make the workplace more welcoming. Bus stops and depots need to be properly lit, and CCTV cameras installed on buses to ensure safety. And, equipping depots with ladies toilets and separate rest areas will go a long way in making the women more comfortable at work. In addition, self-defence training could be scaled up so that more women are capable of protecting themselves and their passengers from harassment.

Next, it is not enough to just open the job space for women; it will be equally important to confer them with benefits such as accommodation closer to their place of work and a drop-off facility when their shifts end at odd hours. The transport authorities could also include women in route planning because men and women have different needs and uses for basic civic amenities.

But, in the end, it needs to be remembered that a bus conductor's job is never easy – neither for men nor for women. Often salaries are low, the work load is heavy, shifts begin and end at odd times, there is little leave, and employees must spend long hours on their feet while constantly facing the rude behaviour of passengers, some of whom can be quite violent and unruly.

Encouraging more people to use public transport

But, now, with more women breaking into these traditionally male bastions there is new hope. The World Bank's Efficient and Sustainable City Bus Services Project - that is working to improve city bus services in 4 Indian cities including Chandigarh – also seeks to make these male preserves more women-friendly.

For, more women bus conductors will encourage more people to use public buses, easing congestion on city roads and making the air easier to breathe for all of us. Today, the city of Chandigarh has made a promising start. The time is now ripe to take this bold new step forward! 🌐

Link >> <http://tinyurl.com/pxnrj3>

Building feedback into project implementation: A visit to the social observatory

Submitted by Ken Chomitz

“Do you decide on what types of clothes to wear based on your own preferences?” That's a question on a survey instrument designed to assess whether Tamil Nadu's Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project (part of the Pudhu Vaazhvu Project or PVP) is actually having an impact on women's empowerment. The question resonated strongly with the project beneficiaries I met. For them, it was a touchstone indicator of empowerment. That may be because it was crafted by a group of the women for whom the project is designed. The project attracted me to Tamil Nadu because it is at the intersection of my two current concerns: promoting better monitoring and evaluation, and assessing the potential for information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve development practice. The backdrop

is an often-heard set of complaints about project monitoring: It an 'extractive industry' that burdens beneficiaries and staff with demands to produce information that they see as irrelevant. And the information it does manage to produce is too slow and thin to allow course correction and improvement. But in theory, and with the right incentives, ICT should be able to remedy this. It should make it cheaper and easier to gather better information, do it more inclusively, and get it to decision makers at all levels in a timely fashion.

Enter the Social Observatory, a DEC initiative. It seeks to build diagnostics and feedback loops into the implementation of PVP and similar livelihood projects in India. 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/q6tott7>

ICR Update

This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Reports (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 Reproductive and Child Health Project



Context

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched by the Government of India (GOI) in 2005-6, marked a significant shift in approach towards family welfare programs. The focus of NRHM was on reducing infant and maternal mortality, providing universal access to public health services; prevention and control of both communicable and non-communicable diseases; ensuring population stabilization, and maintaining gender balance. There was also an unprecedented paradigm shift towards output based financing for states, and a new emphasis on innovations in service delivery and on achieving results on the ground.

The Second Reproductive and Child Health Project (RCH II) supported the government in achieving the targets laid out in NRHM.

Second Reproductive and Child Health Project

Approval Date:	22 August, 2006
Closing Date:	31 March, 2012
Total Project Cost:	US\$ 4.4 billion
Bank Financing:	US\$ 370 million
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
Outcome:	Moderately Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Low or Negligible
Overall Bank Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory

Project Development Objectives

The objective of the RCH II Project was to support the Gol's continuing program for reproductive and child health that aimed to achieve "reductions in maternal mortality and child mortality" by expanding the use of essential reproductive and child health services of adequate quality with reduction of geographical disparities. The project had three components:

- a) **Improvement in essential RCH services:** activities included procurement of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, equipment, and training of health workers.
- b) **Technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation:** to establish and build capacity of states in planning, execution and monitoring and evaluation process.
- c) **Polio Eradication:** support to address the finance gap in Gol's plan to achieve polio-free status for the country.

Project Beneficiaries

The primary target group included all eligible women and children, as well as couples in the reproductive age group across India, with a special focus on the poor. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh – which accounted for 50 percent of the poor in the country along with five other states with poor maternal and child health status (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, MP, Orissa, Rajasthan) collectively termed the Empowered Action Group or EAG states were identified as critical for achieving the goals of the project. The project, therefore, had a special focus on poor women and children in these eight EAG states. Over time, additional attention was also directed at the vulnerable North-Eastern states and other vulnerable groups.

Achievements

Though World Bank's contribution under the RCH program was a small component of the overall NHRM program of the government, significant success was achieved in reaching the targets laid out at the commencement of the project. By providing better access to health care facilities in rural areas, it was found that almost 76 percent of deliveries were conducted by skilled care providers. This surpassed the target of 60 percent especially among the scheduled castes and

scheduled tribes (SC & ST) and the EAG states. The project also achieved significant results in targeting eligible couples to use modern contraceptive methods. Almost 52 percent of such couples in 19 out of 34 states in the country were persuaded to use modern contraceptive methods. More than 50 percent of children between ages 12-23 months were immunized, particularly among the SCs & STs. Post-natal health care services also recorded a 50 percent improvement over the targeted 40 percent. Immunization against polio covered nearly 98 percent of households against a target of 80 percent.

Lessons Learnt

- In the longer term, national and state level technical experts are needed to develop and support implementation of national guidelines and strategies. A focus on program management of district-level capacities is key, since the district is the basic level of planning and implementation in India. A related key lesson from RCH II is that when health investments are focused on evidence-based strategies, impressive results can be achieved, even in challenging environments.
- The RCH II project showed that it is possible to build-in successful gender elements into large reproductive health projects, so long as these elements are tailored to the country and cultural contexts.
- Demand-side interventions (such as *Janani Suraksha Yojana*) are important and possibly necessary, but not sufficient conditions for quality enhancement. Going forward, additional efforts are needed to strengthen the quality of the RCH services, in addition to those already underway (such as accreditation, third party review, quality improvements at clinic level, team based training and reviews, strengthened skill trainings etc).
- While major progress has been made in improving critical health infrastructure, significant gaps remain, especially in basic infrastructure such as provision of safe and continuous water supply in health facilities.

- Even though human resources increased considerably, many challenges remain. Training of doctors in anesthesia and pediatrics (short course) and other such strategies still need to be strengthened; and there needs to be follow up to ensure that doctors with this training are actually deployed so they use their newly acquired skills. The need for continued focus on capacity strengthening, including at district levels, is a key lesson for the future.
- Despite the fact that health is a state subject, the financing model followed by RCH II and NRHM involved federal budget allocations which were tied to specific reforms. Further, the provision of some flexible funds went a long way in enabling innovations at state and district levels. The project enabled several innovations in service delivery models, especially at state and district levels. Future projects may benefit from a similar approach.
- Using reliable and timely sources of data as the basis for monitoring a program enhances the credibility of reporting. This is a more expensive strategy, since conducting a national survey such as the NFHS or the DLHS costs money; but the payoff is significant and allows for national level comparisons and analyses since the methodology is uniform across geographies. However, unnecessary delays in release of data detract from both the credibility of the data, and the ability to make mid-course corrections.
- Rigorous external program evaluations, with special attention to the weaker EAG states, could add significant value to RCH II and NRHM. This remains among the greatest weaknesses of the otherwise successful RCH II project and the NRHM program that needs to be addressed in future projects.
- If managed well, the World Bank and the Donor Partners (DP) can play a constructive role in supporting government policies, plans and programs towards agreed goals and outcomes. Agreements such as organizing Joint Review Missions under the leadership of MOHFW, partnering some states with a particular DP, and the technical support from both pooling and non-pooling partners significantly strengthened various program management functions, especially financial management and procurement, as well as technical aspects. 🌐



Recent Project Approvals

MSME Growth Innovation and Inclusive Finance Project



The World Bank has approved a \$500 million loan for the MSME Growth Innovation and Inclusive Finance Project to improve access to finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) working in the manufacturing and services sector, including startups and early stage ventures.

The project will support MSMEs through direct financing by the Small Industries Development Bank of India or SIDBI, an apex financial institution for promotion, financing and development of MSMEs in India, as also through Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) across three components. These include support to startup debt financing and risk capital as well as support to service and manufacturing sector financing models.

The project's first component will support SIDBI in developing, innovating and scaling up its startup debt financing program as well as support entry of potential participating financing institutions (PFIs). Its second component will support the financing of MSME enterprises in the services sector. The project will also support MSMEs in the manufacturing sector through innovative

financial products including Loan Extension Services (LES) and cluster financing – including women-led clusters. Particular focus will be on expanding manufacturing activity in financially underserved areas, including low-income states especially through refinancing, as banks and other PFIs have a deeper network in these states. 🌐



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:

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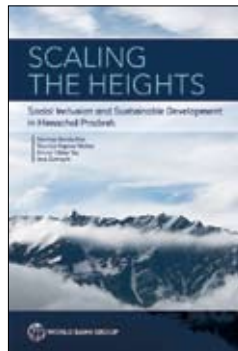
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India Publications

Scaling the heights: Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh



By Maitreyi Bordia Das,
Soumya Kapoor-Mehta and
et.al.

Available: On-line

English, 120 Pages

Published: January 2015

Report No.: 93729

Himachal Pradesh has the reputation of being stable, inclusive, cohesive and well-governed and it

stands apart in many respects from its neighbors in northern India. It has additionally, achieved remarkable growth, especially in the last two decades, which has been accompanied by very good human development outcomes. Despite being a predominantly rural society, educational attainment in Himachal Pradesh for instance, is among the best in the country; poverty headcount is nearly one-third of the national average; life expectancy is 3.4 years longer than the number of years an average Indian expects to live; and, per capita income is the second highest in India. Underlying its strong economic and social development outcomes is Himachal Pradesh's commitment to expand access to public services to the remotest areas, across tough, hilly terrain and its strong institutional foundations. Inter-group disparities are low in a state where traditionally disadvantaged groups such as the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) make up a solid 30 percent of the population

Promoting Positive Nutrition Behavior in Bihar

Available: On-line

English, 4 Pages

Published: January 2015

Report No.: 93527

This brief describes a pilot designed to leverage the women's self-help group platform of a World Bank-

supported livelihoods project (that is, a non-health sector project) to promote positive nutrition and health behaviors and improve, especially amongst poor and vulnerable households, the demand for and utilization of public services across many sectors to improve nutrition outcomes. This pilot is based on using a World Bank-supported project platform in a non-health and nutrition sector to leverage entry points and opportunities to improve nutrition. The pilot provides a unique opportunity to build the capacity of community institutions of poor rural women to improve maternal and child nutrition. It promotes behavior change to adopt positive maternal and child health and nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitation practices, improve food security, and leverage public services to generate demand and utilize services that will ultimately improve nutrition outcomes through a community based, gender sensitive approach.

Food and Nutrition Security in Tribal and Backwards Areas in India

Available: On-line
English, 4 Pages
Published: January 2015
Report No.: 93528

Malnutrition is one of India's most serious and persistent problems. While nutrition outcomes across India are poor, they are typically worse in tribal and backward areas. The South Asia food and nutrition security initiative (SAFANSI) has provided funding to the national rural livelihoods mission (NRLM) to strengthen the capacity of government and or communities to deliver effective food and nutrition security interventions in tribal and conflict-affected areas. This study seeks to examine how the NRLM can enhance the effectiveness of the program's core livelihoods focus, while strengthening the capacity of the Government of India (GoI) to deliver (or support) effective food and nutrition security (FNS) interventions in tribal and backward areas.

Producer Companies in India: Potential to Support Increased Productivity and Profitability of Poor Smallholder Farmers



By Helen Leitch
Available: On-line
English, 5 Pages
Published: December 2014
Report No.: 93989

In 2002, the producer company model emerged to benefit poor farmers in India. This smart lesson, based on the World

Bank's growing experience with producer companies in India, builds on lessons learned from the first and second Madhya Pradesh district poverty initiatives

projects, which initiated 18 agriculture and livestock companies, involving 46,500 poor small farmers in over 1,550 villages in 14 districts – with 100 percent women shareholders in the livestock companies and 25 percent women owners in agriculture. Together, these 18 companies had an annual turnover of more than 9.5 million dollars in 2011-12.

India: Policy Research Working Papers

WPS7198

Behavioral economics and social exclusion: Can interventions overcome prejudice?

By Karla Hoff

Behavioral economics recognizes that mental models—intuitive sets of ideas about how things work—can bias an individual's perceptions of himself and the world. By representing an ascriptive category of people as unworthy, a mental model can foster unjust social exclusion of, for example, a race, gender, caste, or class. Since the representation is a social construction, shouldn't society be able to control it? But how? This paper considers three interventions that have had some success in developing countries:

- (1) Group deliberation in Senegal challenged the traditional mental model of female genital cutting and contributed to the abandonment of the practice;
- (2) political reservations for women and low castes in India improved the way men perceived women, the way parents perceived their daughters, and the way women perceived themselves, but have not generally had positive effects on the low castes; and
- (3) reductions in the salience of identity closed performance gaps between dominant and stigmatized groups in experiments in India and China. Spoiled collective identities need to be changed or made less prominent in order to overcome social exclusion.

WPS7189

Sex-selective abortions, fertility, and birth spacing

By Claus C Portner

Previous research on sex-selective abortions has ignored the interactions between fertility, birth spacing, and sex selection, despite both fertility and birth spacing being important considerations for parents when deciding on the use of sex selection. This paper presents a novel approach that jointly estimates the determinants of sex-selective abortions, fertility, and birth spacing, using data on Hindu women from India's National Family and Health Surveys. Women with eight or more years of education in urban and rural areas are the main users of sex-selective abortions and they also have the lowest fertility. Predicted lifetime fertility for these women declined 11 percent between the

1985-1994 and 1995-2006 periods, which correspond to the periods of time before and after sex selection became illegal. Fertility is now around replacement level. This decrease in fertility has been accompanied by a 6 percent increase in the predicted number of abortions during the childbearing years between the two periods, and sex selection is increasingly used for earlier parities. Hence, the legal steps taken to combat sex selection have been unable to reverse its use. Women with fewer than eight years of education have substantially higher fertility and do not appear to use sex selection.

Other Publications

Global Economic Prospects 2015: Having Fiscal Space and Using It



Price: Kindle Edition \$23.99
Paperback \$35.00
Available: On-line

English; 214 pages
Published: January 2015
ISBN 978-1-4648-0444-1;
SKU: 210444

In addition to discussing global and regional economic developments

and prospects, this edition of *Global Economic Prospects* includes four essays that analyze key challenges and opportunities currently confronting developing countries: fiscal policy as a countercyclical policy tool; causes and implications of cheap oil; weak trade that fails to act as an engine of growth; and remittances as a means of steadying consumption during sudden stops.

International Debt Statistics 2015

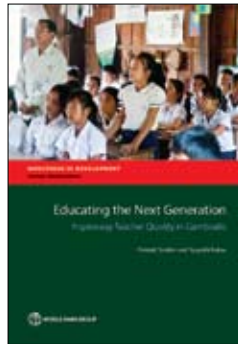


By the World Bank
Price: Kindle Edition \$39.99
Paperback \$60.60
Available: On-line
English; 210 pages
Published: December 2014
ISBN: 978-1-464804137
SKU: 210413

International Debt Statistics 2015 provides statistical

tables showing the external debt of 128 developing countries that report public and publicly guaranteed external debt to the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System. It also includes tables of key debt ratios for individual reporting countries and the composition of external debt stocks and flows for individual reporting countries and regional and income groups along with some graphical presentations.

Educating the Next Generation: Improving Teacher Quality in Cambodia

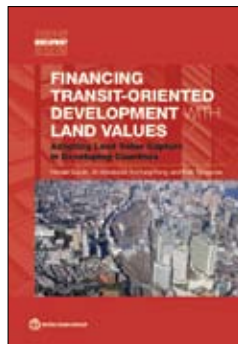


By Prateek Tandon Arvo and Tsuyoshi Fukao
Price: Kindle Edition \$9.99
Paperback \$28.4
Available: On-line
English; 142 pages
Published: January 2015;
Directions in Development
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0417-5
SKU: 210417

This book diagnoses

Cambodian teaching quality and presents policy options for reform. Through classroom observation, assessments of mathematics and pedagogical content knowledge, and surveys of teachers and school directors, it sheds light on content and instruction, interactions with school directors, instructional support systems, and the implementation of teacher standards.

Financing Transit-Oriented Development with Land Values: Adapting Land Value Capture in Developing Countries



By Hiroaki Suzuki, Jin Murakami, Yu-Hung Hong, and Beth Tamayose
Price: Kindle Edition \$19.99
Paperback \$29.95
Available: On-line
English; 256 pages
Published: January 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0149-5
SKU: 210149

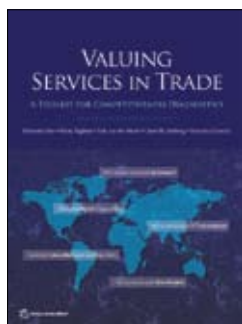
Development-based land

value capture (DBLVC) schemes have great potential to become an important strategic apparatus of urban finance and planning for cities in developing countries. Through a careful analysis of various case studies, this book provides strategies, policies, and methodologies that policy makers and practitioners can apply in developing their own DBLVC schemes for transit financing.

Valuing Services in Trade: A Toolkit for Competitiveness Diagnostics

By Sebastián Sáez, Daria Taglioni, Erik van der Marel, Claire H. Hollweg, and Veronika Zavacka

Price: Kindle Edition \$19.24
Paperback \$30.96
Available: On-line
English; 168 pages
Published: January 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0155-6
SKU: 210155



The toolkit provides a framework, guidelines, and set of practical tools to conduct a thorough analysis and diagnostic of trade competitiveness in the services sector with a methodology that sheds light on a country's ability both to export services and improve its export

performance through policy change. This toolkit is designed to be used in a modular way. Either a full country diagnostic can be undertaken, or various parts of the toolkit can be used to address specific questions of interest, whether they pertain to existing services performance, the potential for expansion and growth in services trade, or policy options to increase competitiveness in services trade.

Too Global To Fail: The World Bank at the Intersection of National and Global Public Policy in 2025

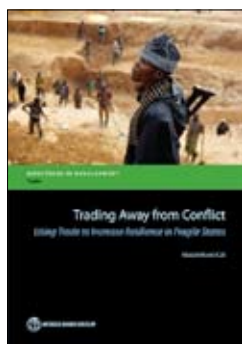


Edited by J. Warren Evans and Robin Davies
Price: \$29.95
Available: On-line
 English; 310 pages
 Published: December 2014;
 Directions in Development
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0307-9
 SKU: 210307

In an increasingly interconnected and complex

world, communities at all scales rely more and more on global public goods – from reduction of carbon emissions to combat climate change, to food security and vaccines. This book paints a picture of a landscape where everything is changing and the availability of global public goods is challenged by threats like climate change that could stifle poverty reduction efforts and slow economic growth.

Trading Away from Conflict: Using Trade to Increase Resilience in Fragile States

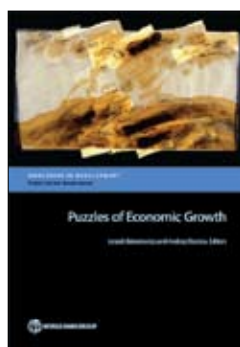


By Massimiliano Cali
Price: Kindle Edition \$19.24
Paperback \$30.96
Available: On-line
 English; 150 pages
 Published: December 2014;
 Directions in Development
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0308-6
 SKU: 210308

Conflict weakens governance, undermines

economic development, and threatens both national and regional stability. Trade shocks, in particular, can have widely varying impacts on conflict. This report sets out to empirically test these linkages between trade shocks and conflict via cross-country and intra-country analysis. On the basis of the analysis, it offers trade-related policy directions to reduce this risk in fragile economies.

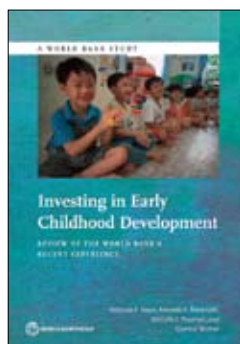
Puzzles of Economic Growth



Edited by Leszek Balcerowicz and Andrzej Rzonca
Price: Kindle Edition \$27.99
Paperback \$39.95
Available: On-line
 English; 352 pages
 Published: December 2014;
 Directions in Development
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0325-3
 SKU: 210325

Puzzles of Economic Growth takes case studies from around the globe to investigate countries that over the past few decades, share many geographic characteristics, but differ significantly in terms of financial stability. Digging deep into seemingly similar countries can unveil striking differences on the topic of economic growth: Why is Mexico so much poorer than Spain, despite having been wealthier all the way into the 1960s? Why has Venezuela, which in 1950 had a per capita income higher than that of Norway and remains a major exporter of oil, slipped behind Chile? Why, even before the 2010 earthquake, has been the Dominican Republic visited by several dozen times more tourists than Haiti, despite being situated on the same island?

Investing in Early Childhood Development: Review of the World Bank's Recent Experience

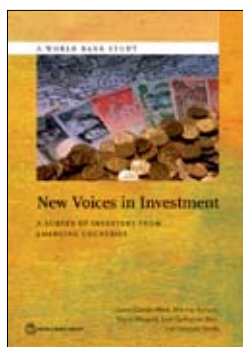


By Rebecca K. Sayre, Amanda E. Devercelli, Michelle J. Neuman, and Quentin Wodon
Price: Kindle Edition \$9.99
Paperback \$29.95
Available: On-line
 English; 156 pages
 Published: December 2014;
 World Bank Studies
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0403-8
 SKU: 210403

This study provides an overview of Bank investments in Early Childhood Development (ECD) from 2000-2013 within the Education, Health, Nutrition and Population, and Social Protection and Labor practices. The study summarizes trends in operational and analytical investments in early childhood, including lending and

trust funded operations at the country, regional, and global levels. Findings are presented on the overall level of finance during this thirteen-year period, the number of ECD investments, and regional and sectoral trends.

New Voices in Investment: A Survey of Investors from Emerging Countries



By Laura Gómez-Mera, Thomas Kenyon, Yotam Margalit, José Guilherme Reis, and Gonzalo Varela
Price: Kindle Edition \$9.99
Paperback \$28.45
Available: On-line
English; 112 pages
Published: November 2014;
World Bank Studies
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0371-0
SKU: 210371

One out of every three dollars invested abroad in 2012 originated in multinationals from developing countries. This study sheds light on the characteristics, motivations, strategies, and needs of emerging market investors. By including information on investors, potential investors, and non-investors, the study identifies differentiating factors among them that are associated with investment decisions.

Labor Policy to Promote Good Jobs in Tunisia: Revisiting Labor Regulation, Social Security, and Active Labor Market Programs

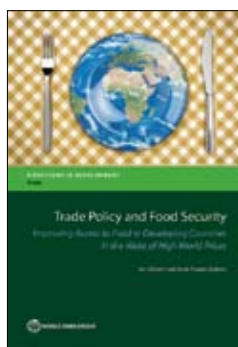


By Diego F. Angel-Urdinola, Antonio Nucifora, David Robalino, Anne Hilger, Arvo Kuddo, and Jan Rutkowski
Price: Kindle Edition \$9.99
Paperback \$29.95
Available: On-line
English; 142 pages
Published: November 2014;
Directions in Development
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0271-3
SKU: 210271

Tunisians are striving for the opportunity to realize their potential and aspirations in a country that is rich in both human and physical capital, but whose recent economic growth has failed to create enough opportunities in the form of good and productive jobs.

This report highlights the main barriers that hinder the Tunisian labor market from providing income, protection, and prosperity to its citizens and proposes a set of labor policies that could facilitate the creation of better, more inclusive, and more productive jobs.

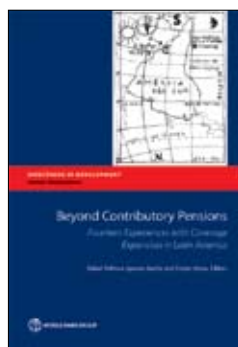
Trade Policy and Food Security: Improving Access to Food in Developing Countries in the Wake of High World Prices



Edited by Ian Gillson and Amir Fouad
Price: Kindle Edition \$19.24
Paperback \$32.06
Available: On-line
English; 352 pages
Published: November 2014;
Directions in Development
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0305-5
SKU: 210305

In addition to examining the determinants of recent food price spikes, *Trade Policy and Food Security* explores the impact of food prices on economic welfare, and how the effect of price changes on food security and economic welfare in developing countries can be mitigated through appropriate national policies at the border.

Beyond Contributory Pensions: Fourteen Experiences with Coverage Expansion in Latin America



By Rafael Rofman, Ignacio Apella, and Evelyn Veza
Price: Kindle Edition \$31.99
Paperback 44.95
Available: On-line
English; 448 pages
Published: November 2014;
Directions in Development
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0390-1
SKU: 210390

This report examines recent pension reforms in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. All countries share the goal of comprehensive pension coverage, but each has unique political environments, social conditions, and economic capacities.

India Project Documents

Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project

Date 03 Feb 2015
 Project ID P150520
 Report No. ISDSA1167 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet-Appraisal Stage)
 PIDA19567 (Project Information Document-Appraisal Stage)
 E4725 (Environmental Assessment, 4 Vol.)

Second Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project

Date 01 Feb 2015
 Project ID P143751
 Report No. RP1689 (Resettlement Plan for 11 roads under EPC, 3 Vol.)
 93868 (Memo to EDs – Inspection Panel Notice of Registration)
 PIDA16563 (Project Information Document-Appraisal Stage)
 ISDSA1100 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet-Appraisal Stage)

Fourth Power System Development Project

Date 03 Feb 2015
 Project ID P101653
 Report No. ICR3216 (Implementation Completion and Results Report)

India Ecosystems Service Improvement Project

Date 29 Jan 2015
 Project ID P133803
 Report No. ISDSA1070 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet-Appraisal Stage)
 PIDA14755 (Project Information Document-Appraisal Stage)

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Program

Date 21 Jan 2015
 Project ID P150395
 Report No. ISDSA9367 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet-Appraisal Stage)
 PIDA17333 (Project Information Document-Appraisal Stage)
 RP1714 (Resettlement Plan, 2 Vol.)
 E4672 (Environmental Assessment, 4 Vol.)

Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project

Date 08 Jan 2015
 Project ID P130544
 Report No. ISDSA3206 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet-Appraisal Stage)
 RP1729 (Resettlement Plan, 2 Vol.)

Uttar Pradesh Core Road Network Development Project

Date 01 Jan 2015
 Project ID P147864
 Report No. E4691 (Environmental Assessment, 8 Vol.)
 94047 (Executive Summary)
 IPP763 (Indigenous Peoples Plan)
 RP1723 (Resettlement Plan, 3 Vol.)

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor 3 Project

Date 01 Jan 2015
 Project ID P150158
 Report No. RP1736 (Resettlement, 3 Vol.)

Second Phase of the Bihar Kosi Flood Management Project

Date 01 Jan 2015
 Project ID P127725
 Report No. E3099 (Environmental Assessment)

North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project

Date 01 Jan 2015
 Project ID P127974
 Report No. E4742 (Environmental Assessment, 2 Vol.)

MSME Growth Innovation and Inclusive Finance Project

Date 31 Dec 2014
 Project ID P151544
 Report No. PIDA19500 (Project Information Document-Appraisal Stage)
 ISDSA1147 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet-Appraisal Stage)
 ISDSC1074 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet-Concept Stage)
 PIDC14440 (Project Information Document-Concept Stage)

E4718 (Environmental Assessment,
2 Vol.)

Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project

Date 31 Dec 2014
Project ID P151744
Report No. PIDC15672 (Project Information
Document-Concept Stage)
ISDSC1083 (Integrated Safeguards
Data Sheet-Concept Stage)

Nagaland Health Project

Date 26 Dec 2014
Project ID P149340
Report No. PIDA17535 (Project Information
Document-Appraisal Stage)
ISDSA1106 (Integrated Safeguards
Data Sheet-Appraisal Stage)

Hydrology III Project

Date 22 Dec 2014
Project ID P152698
Report No. ISDSC 1128 (Integrated Safeguards
Data Sheet-Concept Stage)
PIDC17560 (Project Information
Document-Concept Stage)

Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Date 19 Dec 2014
Project ID P050653
Report No. ICR3124 (Implementation Completion
and Results Report)

Partial Risk Sharing Facility in Energy Efficiency Project

Date 19 Dec 2014
Project ID P128921
Report No. PIDA6597 (Project Information
Document-Appraisal Stage)

Second Phase of the Hydrology Project

Date 15 Dec 2014
Project ID P084632
Report No. ICR2931 (Implementation Completion
and Results Report)

Swachh Bharat Mission Support Program Project

Date 07 Dec 2014
Project ID P153251
Report No. PID17448 (Project Information
Document-Appraisal Stage)

Citizen Access to Responsive Services (Sarv Seva) Project

Date 05 Dec 2014
Project ID P149182
Report No. PIDA16946 (Project Information
Document-Appraisal Stage)
ISDSA1108 (Integrated Safeguards
Data Sheet-Appraisal Stage)
IPP760 (Indigenous Peoples Plan)

Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management Project

Date 04 Dec 2014
Project ID P091031
Report No. E2019 (Environmental Assessment,
2 Vol.)

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project

Date 01 Dec 2014
Project ID P097985
Report No. 93459 (redacted report)

Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project

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Project ID P073370
Report No. 93450 (redacted report)

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From the Blogworld

Big Data needs better questions

Submitted by Elizabeth Sabet

Co-Authors: Oscar Calvo, Andrea Coppola, Neisan Massarrat, Ryan Siegel



The term "big data" is much in the news lately – alternately touted as the next silver bullet potentially containing answers to myriad questions on natural and human dynamics, and dismissed by others as hype. We are only beginning to discover what value exists in the vast quantities of information we have today, and how we are now capable of generating, storing, and analyzing this information. But how can we begin to extract that value? More importantly, how can we begin to apply it to improving the human condition by promoting development and reducing poverty?

That is precisely the question that motivated the World Bank Group and Second Muse to collaborate on the recently released report *Big Data in Action for Development*. Interviews with big data practitioners around the world and an extensive review of literature on the topic led us to some surprising answers.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/lw19fjy>

2015: The year of (data) time travel

Submitted by Neil Fantom



Time travel is, of course, the stuff of science fiction. H.G. Wells wrote about it in 1895, and it's been fertile territory for film and television makers ever since. But the ability to store and retrieve digital records has at least made it possible to travel back in time with data...

For users of statistics, it turns out this can be a pretty handy thing to do: estimates and measures of many indicators get revised as methods improve, and as geographies and economies shift over time. A statistical data Time Machine can help answer questions like how much estimates been revised – and even whether different decisions might have been taken with the benefit of hindsight.

Now, 2015 is the year of the Data Revolution. So, let's make a contribution by making a Time Machine using World Bank open data.

Read more on how we got here: <http://tinyurl.com/pquf6ks>

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- ◆ Kerala University Library Thiruvananthapuram
- ◆ Centre for Economic and Social Studies Hyderabad
- ◆ Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University Raipur
- ◆ Punjabi University Patiala
- ◆ University of Bombay Mumbai
- ◆ Uttaranchal Academy of Administration Nainital