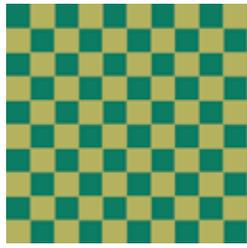


5

Faculty: Ongoing Projects and Studies



■ AMITA BAVISKAR

'Food Practices in Western India: Environment, Production and Consumption', self-initiated. Initiated in September 2012; likely date of completion, September 2022.

The multiple routes of Indian modernity can be traced through shifts in the modes of producing and consuming food. This study attempts to analyse some of these shifts through a selective discussion of changing food practices in post-Independence India. It locates these changes in the context of the political economy of agriculture since the Green Revolution which brought about a profound rearticulation between food producers and consumers. It delineates the widening circuits of food as a commodity form within the home and outside, spanned by the growth of processed foods and the practice of 'eating out'. The study juxtaposes changes in affluent and middle-class consumption with the persistence of hunger and malnutrition among the poor.

(with Purnamita Dasgupta and C.S.C. Sekhar) 'Risks, Returns and Resilience: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Climate Change and Agriculture', funded by ICSSR. Initiated on March 2, 2017; likely date of completion, March 2019.

Dryland agriculture in India has been marked by a severe crisis of reproduction over the last two decades. In an already precarious scenario, climate change adds another dimension of uncertainty which farmers, as well as policymakers, are struggling to factor into their strategies for future well-being. What are the mechanisms available to the farmer for coping with this uncertainty? What are the resources that s/he can command—natural, financial, political and social? Are the pathways of coping different in different regions? How varied are risks and returns in different states? This study attempts to address these questions and understand this complex issue through a multi-disciplinary approach.

'Public Health Initiative on LMIC (Low and Middle-Income Countries) Air Pollution', funded by UK Medical Research Council-Arts and Humanities Research Council. Initiated on May 1, 2018; likely date of completion, December 1, 2019.

This project brings together clinicians, designers, social and data scientists to explore the lived experiences of asthmatic adolescents drawn from the different strata of Delhi society. It will produce ethnographic data in a productive dialogue with quantitative data derived from wearable sensors on personal exposure to airborne pollution, to inspire stylised animation sequences conveying pithy messages on the unequal burden of air pollution in Delhi. This project is in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, Centre for Chronic Disease Control India, and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

■ T.A. BHAVANI

'Behavioural Economics and Public Policy', self-initiated. Initiated in March 2018; likely date of completion, June 2019.

Policies based on mainstream economics ignore deviations of human behaviour from the rational and hence have limited efficacy. Behavioural economics that integrates psychological behaviour of individuals into economics provides more effective policy solutions to economic problems. Realising this, countries like the UK and USA have started devising public policies by incorporating behavioural insights. In this context, I plan to work on the role of behavioural economics in public policymaking. To be specific, I will try to bring together the basic patterns of human behaviour, their implications for the decision making of economic agents, behavioural tools available for public policy and some of the successful policy applications of behavioural economics.

■ SANGEETA CHAKRAVARTY

'Trends Analysis of Tourism in India', self-initiated. Initiated in September 2017; likely date of completion, August 2018.

India, one of the fastest growing economies in the world, still lags behind in tourism. Due to the lack of promotion and infrastructure, tourism in India is not a big industry compared to other developing countries. Tourist expenditure on accommodation, food, transport and recreation has an effect on the overall development of a country. The percentage receipt from foreign tourists in relation to gross national product is an indicator of the importance of tourism. Tourism is a sector with immense economic development and employment generation possibilities. This paper examines the trends of the indicators of tourism for the period 1980–2016. Comparing the performance of the tourism sector at an all-India level and a few states gives insightful results.

'Tourism and Economic Growth in India: An Econometric Approach', self-initiated. Initiated in May 2017; likely date of completion, July 2018.

An important macroeconomic question for researchers and investors is whether foreign tourist arrival can lead to economic growth. In recent years, the tourism industry in India has been growing at a rapid pace. It has the potential to generate employment and earn foreign exchange. It also contributes to the country's overall economic, social and cultural development. In this backdrop, the study examines the dynamic relationship between economic growth, foreign exchange earnings from tourism and foreign tourist arrival in India using econometric techniques.

'The Effect of Tourism Growth on Economic Growth in India: Quantile Regression Approach', self-initiated. Initiated in November 2017; likely date of completion, October 2018.

This study analyses whether tourism growth measured as the number of tourists arriving in India has a positive impact on economic growth. It uses quantile regression, a statistical technique, for the period 1997–2014.

(with Basanta K. Pradhan) 'Government Expenditure and Tax Revenue: Odisha', self-initiated. Initiated in November 2017; likely date of completion, September 2018.

■ SAMIK CHOWDHURY

(with Indrani Gupta) 'Fiscal Restructuring and its Implications on Health Sector: An Analysis of State Budgets with Focus on Uttar Pradesh and Bihar', funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation (BMGF), USA. Initiated on October 29, 2015; likely date of completion, December 31, 2019.

The fiscal landscape in India is undergoing significant changes following the 14th Finance Commission (FFC) recommendations and its subsequent acceptance by the Government of India. The FFC has increased the tax devolution to states from the divisible pool with a simultaneous reduction in Plan outlay in the current Union budget to accommodate the increased tax devolution. The ensuing changes could have an impact on social sector programmes, especially the health sector, where states have the greater expenditure responsibility. The main objective is to understand what the implications of the recent policy pronouncements would be for the health sector of five states—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh.

■ SAUDAMINI DAS

'Identifying Agro-vulnerable Hotspots through Ex-post Analysis', self initiated. Initiated on March 1, 2018; likely date of completion, October 30, 2018.

The standard vulnerability analysis is based on methods of developing indexes using parameters and defines vulnerability in an ex-ante sense. This study will use agricultural value added and disaster data at the district level and will define vulnerability using the model predicted error. This method will be more appropriate in identifying agro disaster hot spots so that the appropriate policy can be targeted to those areas.

(with Arup Mitra, Amarnath Tripathi, Thiagu Ranganathan and Tapas Sarangi) 'Climate Change, Livelihood Diversification and Well-being in Rural Odisha', funded by ICSSR. Initiated in April 2017; likely date of completion, March 2019.

This study based on field level data explores the scope for livelihood diversification in the rural areas of a backward state. How climate change has impacted on their livelihood, whether the strategies adopted by the households help them mitigate the vulnerabilities, and what policy options in this context need to be taken up are some of the key issues of the project.

Economics of Marine Plastic Pollution in India', self-initiated. Initiated on December 1, 2017; likely date of completion, June 30, 2018.

The year 2018 has been declared as the year of Marine Plastic pollution and governments worldwide are being advised to clean the water bodies and manage plastic waste urgently. This study is a preliminary work to suggest methodologies to derive an economic estimate of the loss suffered due to this problem in India.

■ PURNAMITA DASGUPTA

(with Smita Sirohi, NDRI) 'Risk and Vulnerability Analysis of Rural Farm Households in Drought Prone and Coastal Areas of India', funded by ICSSR. Initiated in March 2016; likely date of completion, August 2018.

This study assesses the nature, type and magnitude of risks faced by the rural farm households in the drought prone state of Rajasthan and the coastal state of Kerala. It maps the vulnerability of households to multiple stressors in the study area, and analyses in depth the vulnerabilities faced in terms of two indicators—technology adoption and food security. Further, it seeks to assess the effectiveness of household and community responses for managing risks, based on their access to and utilisation of available risk management options, across socio-economic groups. For each of the study areas, we examine the efficacy of one important risk management option in building resilience and reducing risks—in Kerala we look at producer co-operatives while in Rajasthan we study insurance mechanisms.





(with Amita Baviskar and C.S.C. Sekhar) 'Risks, Returns and Resilience: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Climate Change and Agriculture', funded by ICSSR. Initiated in March 2017; likely date of completion March 2019.

Dryland agriculture in India has been marked by a severe crisis of reproduction over the last two decades. In an already precarious scenario, climate change adds another dimension of uncertainty, which farmers, as well as policymakers, are struggling to factor into their strategies for future well-being. What are the mechanisms available to the farmer for coping with this uncertainty? What are the resources that s/he can command—natural, financial, political and social? Are the pathways of coping different in different regions? How varied are risks and returns in different states? This study attempts to address these questions and understand this complex issue through a multi-disciplinary approach.

(with Manoj Panda) 'Developing Future Socio-Economic Scenarios for India in the Context of Climate Change', funded by NATCOM, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and UNDP. Initiated in October 2017; likely date of completion, October 2018.

The objective of this study is to develop future socio-economic scenarios for India in the context of climate change. The study is funded by the MoEFCC, as a preparatory study for India's Third National Communication (TNC) to the UNFCCC. The scenarios are being developed for three time periods—short- (2020–2030), medium- (2030–2050) to long-term time scales (2100)—and include some key socio-economic variables such as GDP growth, poverty, inequality and demographic characteristics. Investment, labour, technology and energy inputs are considered to be critical in understanding how the economy will perform in the future, while expectations about future achievements in socio-economic indicators, as specified in the SDGs, are important markers of social well-being. The challenges posed by climate change are captured by making scenarios corresponding to the shared socio-economic pathways (SSPs) approach.

'Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities', IPCC Special Report on 1.5° C Global Warming, funded by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Initiated in March 2017; likely date of completion, June 2018.

The responsibility is that of the Lead Author for chapter 5, titled 'Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities'. This is an IPCC special report on the impact of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. The report is currently at the stage of the final review by governments.

(with Manoj Panda and William Joe) 'Pay Commissions: Fiscal Implications', 15th Finance Commission, Government of India. Initiated in June 2018; likely date of completion, October 2018.

This study will examine the rationale and history of the setting up of the central and state Pay Commissions and the principles underlying their recommendations. It will analyse the effect of Pay Commissions on the fiscal accounts of the centre and states, and provide projections for 2020–2025. It will consider arrears, wages, salaries and allowances. It will also analyse these in the context of international experience.

(with Manoj Panda and William Joe) 'Resource Sharing between Centre and States and Allocation across States: Some Issues in Balancing Equity and Efficiency', 15th Finance Commission, Government of India. Initiated in June 2018; likely date of completion, October 2018.

This study will review the approach and recommendations of the last four Finance Commissions with respect to vertical and horizontal devolution, focusing on the revenue and expenditure of the union and the states. The trends and pattern in horizontal fiscal devolution across states will be assessed along with the states' own efforts to raise resources and maintain fiscal disci-

pline. The major factors affecting the horizontal and vertical devolution trends will be analysed and the criteria for devolution will be examined in terms of their efficacy in helping stabilisation, equity and fiscal discipline.

■ OINDRILA DE

(with Satyendra K. Gupta) 'Systemic Risks and Competition Distortion: Do Government-Assisted Mergers Make Things Better for Indian Financial Sector?', self-initiated. Initiated in January 2018; likely date of completion, December 2018.

During the 2008 financial crisis, bailout and government-assisted merger and acquisitions (GM&A) had become the most important means to prevent bank failure around the world. Pre- and post-crisis literature tried to untangle the effects of such measures on competition and on the stability of the financial system. The banking sector in India also experienced two episodes of near-crisis situations and therefore is an important testing ground for rescue measures. This study focuses on restructuring mergers since bailout (recapitalisation) is a universal and repetitive phenomena in India. We use market share and Lerner index as competition/concentration measures and marginal expected shortfall (MES) and Delta Conditional Value at Risk () as measures of systemic risk of the banking sector.

'Online Media Market: Competition, Neutrality and Data Protection', self-initiated. Initiated in March 2018; likely date of completion, March 2019.

Recent fines on Google India by the Competition Commission for abusing its dominant position in the vertical search market, as well as investigations against Facebook for possible data abuse that manipulated the Indian election has brought focus back on the regulation of the internet. In this study, we try to build an integrated economic framework to investigate possible competition distortion, search non-neutrality as well as privacy breach by the online media market and suggest a holistic legal framework to regulate online media which is currently unavailable in India.

■ NILABJA GHOSH

(with M. Rajeshwor) 'Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based Observation (FASAL)', funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. Initiated in 2005, ongoing (to be reviewed for 2018 onward; updating database for kharif modelling 2018-19).

The FASAL project provides early forecasts of crop output using econometric modelling to the Ministry of Agriculture every year. This is used for finalising official advance and final estimates published by the Government of India. Four forecasts are provided, two (F0 and F1) each for Kharif and Rabi for major crops at the state level and projected at the all-India level. Participation involves presentations for reviews, monitoring and training.

(with FASAL team) 'Emerging Technologies for Rice Cultivation including SRI', not yet funded. Initiated in 2015-16, under consultation.

The study is a review of rice farming practices, sustainable techniques and their suitability in Indian conditions especially eastern India. It is an invited paper for a future chapter in a book, *System of Rice Intensification for Increased Productivity and Ecological Security*, edited by K. N. Bhatt and P. Bhargava to be published by G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, University of Allahabad. The paper draws and extends on the work done for ICIMOD. Special focus of the proposal is on SRI in Bihar.

(with FASAL team) 'Land Use Changes from Agriculture to Urban Landscape', self-initiated. Initiated in 2016-17, under consultation.



This short study examines the land use and cropping pattern changes taking place in the National Capital Region which is becoming urbanised over time. Both secondary data and satellite maps created under FASAL are used comparatively.

'Dynamics and Extent of Fallow Land in India', funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Initiated in July 2017; finalising the draft report and expect to submit in September 2018.

The AER study assigned by the MOA&FW studies land use and arable land underutilisation in India. It is based on land use data at the all-India level and state level from secondary official data sources to understand the structure of land use and the dynamics of land use over time. Econometric analysis is also used to identify the drivers of short-term and long-term fallow land. Primary data on land fallowing collected by four AER Centres is also analysed to comprehend perceptions and decision making of farmers on the ground.

(with FASAL team) 'Extent of Food Processing in India', Ministry of Food Processing (MoFP). Initiated in 2017, official request and under consultation with MoFP.

This is an extension of the earlier work estimating the level of food processing that is still being discussed with the MoFP. It is a study of methods and generation of statistics.

■ INDRANI GUPTA

(with Samik Chowdhury) 'Fiscal Restructuring and its Implications on Health Sector: An Analysis of State Budgets with Focus on UP and Bihar', funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). Initiated on October 29, 2015; likely date of completion December 31, 2019.

The fiscal landscape in India is undergoing significant changes following the 14th Finance Commission (FFC) recommendations and its subsequent acceptance by the Government of India. The FFC has increased the tax devolution to states from the divisible pool with a simultaneous reduction in Plan outlay in the current Union budget to accommodate the increased tax devolution. The ensuing changes could have an impact on social sector programmes, especially the health sector, where states have the greater expenditure responsibility. The main objective is to understand what the implications of the recent policy pronouncements would be for the health sector of five states—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh.

■ BRAJESH JHA

'Policy Environment for Price Policy for Pulses and Oilseeds', funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Initiated in 2017; likely date of completion, December 2018.

The cobweb phenomenon remains important for agricultural commodity. The government, because of its concern about commodities price for consumers, often resorts to imports and uses the price stabilisation fund to ease the domestic market. However, farmers are often deprived of the minimum support price (MSP) for their produce. Previous studies show that MSP, besides addressing farmers' distress, also affects the sustainable availability of a commodity. The present study reviews the price support programme for farmers, with specific objectives like the effect of imports on farm harvest price of agricultural commodities and its effect on production in subsequent years. The study assesses a suitable policy environment for efficient price support programmes for farmers.

(with Anita Kumari) 'Sources of Growth in Agriculture', funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Initiated in 2014; likely date of completion, July 2018.

There is a near consensus among policy experts that agriculture has to grow at a rate of more than 4 per cent for the balanced development of the economy. Trend growth of agriculture in the recent decade has, however, been significantly lower than 4 per cent. Public investment in

agriculture is cited as one of the many reasons for the lower growth in agriculture. The study analyses the trend of public investment in agriculture at the levels of the country and important states (Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu). The study attempts to delineate the linkage between public and private investment in agriculture. This finally assesses the effect of investment on agricultural performance.

■ WILLIAM JOE

(with T. Jayan) 'National Food Security Act among Rural Households in Karnataka', funded by ICSSR. Initiated in June 2017; likely date of completion, May 2019.

The study examines the performance of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) among the rural households in the Dharwad and Chitradurga districts of Karnataka. In particular, the study aims to estimate the off-take and magnitude of leakage and diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) food grains among rural households. It also assesses the dependence of rural households on the NFSA for meeting food grain consumption, as well as the overall performance of the PDS and viability of fair price shops.

(with Amarnath Tripathi) 'Understanding the Existing Knowledge/skill Level and Attitude Motivation of Rural Youth towards Dairying as an Employment Activity in NDP-1 Intervention Villages', funded by National Dairy Development Board. Initiated in January 2018; likely date of completion, December 2018.

This study aims to understand the existing knowledge/skill level and willingness of rural youth with respect to taking up of dairying and alternative sources of livelihood. It also explores the personal aspirations, social (peer and parental) influences, gender norms and infrastructure (land, finance, market, availability of labour and dairying knowledge) which constrain or influence rural youth's perceptions of dairying and their interest to take it up as an employment activity. The study is also expected to describe possible initiatives to create the incentives for increased rural youth employment and entrepreneurship in dairying.

(with Amarnath Tripathi) 'Contribution of National Dairy Plan-I to the Inclusion, Equity and Income of Dairy Farmers', funded by National Dairy Development Board. Initiated in January 2018; likely date of completion, December 2018.

The principal objective of the National Dairy Plan-I is to empower the deprived and vulnerable sections of the rural communities via all-inclusive interventions in the project areas. The NDP-I had a major focus on women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and small holders. Against this backdrop, this study aims to assess the contributions of NDP-I towards (a) increasing the productivity of milch animals and thereby milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk; and (b) supporting rural milk producers with greater access to the organised milk processing sector.

■ SABYASACHI KAR

(with Kunal Sen and Saon Ray) 'Determinants of Stalled Investment Projects in India', self-initiated. Initiated in April 2016; likely date of completion, March 2019.

In the study, we examine the causes of stalling of investment projects in India. We use a rich database of individual stalled and non-stalled projects combining two separate industry-level databases, CapEx and Prowess data, from CMIE. The objective of the paper is to distinguish between project specific causes and firm specific causes of stalling in India.

(with Kunal Sen) "'De Facto' Deals, 'De Jure' Rules and the Quality of Governance: A Cross-Country Study', self-initiated. Initiated in April 2018; likely date of completion, March 2019.



It is well established that the state–business relationship in developing countries is not defined by the *de jure* rules of doing business that are legally adopted by the governments, but by *de facto* deals between business leaders and the state. In this paper, we study the relationship between these ‘rules’ and ‘deals’ and how they are affected by the quality of governance in these countries.

■ ANITA KUMARI

(with Brajesh Jha) ‘Agricultural Growth and Investment’, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare. Initiated on January 1, 2018; likely date of completion, July 2018.

There is a near consensus among policy experts that agriculture has to grow at a rate of more than 4 per cent for the balanced development of the economy. Trend growth of agriculture in the recent decade has, however, been significantly lower than 4 per cent. Public investment in agriculture is cited as one of the many reasons for the lower growth in agriculture. The study analyses the trend of public investment in agriculture at the levels of the country and important states (Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu). The study attempts to delineate the linkage between public and private investment in agriculture. This finally assesses the effect of investment on agricultural performance.

(with Nilabja Ghosh and M. Rajeshwor; worked till December 31, 2017) ‘Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agrometeorology and Land based Observation (FASAL)’, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare. Initiated in 2005; ongoing (to be reviewed for 2018 onward; updating data base for kharif modelling 2018–19.

The FASAL project provides early forecasts of crop output using econometric modelling to the Ministry of Agriculture every year. This is used for finalising official advance and final estimates published by the Government of India. Four forecasts are provided, two (F0 and F1) each for Kharif and Rabi for major crops at the state level and projected at the all-India level. Participation involves presentations for reviews, monitoring and training

■ ARUP MITRA

(with Chandan Sharma) ‘Growth and Corruption’, self-initiated. Initiated in July 2017; likely date of completion, June 2019.

Whether corruption reduces growth has been greatly debated in the literature. This study based on cross-country data investigates the issue in detail.

(with Saudamini Das, Amarnath Tripathi, Thiagu Rangarajan and Tapas Sarangi) ‘Climate Change, Livelihood Diversification and Well-being in Rural Odisha’, funded by ICSSR. Initiated in April 2017; likely date of completion, March 2019.

This study based on field level data explores the scope for livelihood diversification in the rural areas of a backward state. How climate change has impacted on their livelihood, whether the strategies adopted by the households help them mitigate the vulnerabilities, and what policy options in this context need to be taken up are some of the key issues of the project.

‘Missing Middle’, funded by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, project pursued at National Institute of Labour Economics, Research and Development (NILERD). Initiated in March 2018; likely date of completion, October 2018.

The Indian manufacturing sector comprises an overwhelming number of small and large units. Why the medium sized units are missing and/or why the small units have not grown to the next size are some of the key questions investigated in the project.

■ VEENA NAREGAL

'Framing Inter-regional Comparison: Historical Demarcation and Developmental Transition in South Asia 1905–1960', funded by ICSSR. Initiated in July 2017; likely date of completion, January 2019.

While the embracing of developmental agendas was prefaced by full, formal political acquiescence to the logic of linguistic territorialisation, the actual reorganisation in 1960 was a decade after economic planning became the centrepiece of the national mission. This study proposes a collaboration between four teams to track (a) the crystallisation and (b) rapid transformation of the region, played out *comparatively* across three regional contexts—present-day Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka—between 1905 and 1960.

'Disciplinary Histories and the Politics of Knowledge: The Making of Modern Economic Thought in Indian Languages', self-initiated. Initiated in April 2017; likely date of completion, April 2019.

Even as we know of interesting work to explore the history of modern economic thought and economics as a discipline in other colonial/imperial contexts such as Egypt, China and Japan, the field is yet to attract serious consideration in the Indian context.

This project brings together research around foundational efforts from the second half of the 19th century to render modern economic thought into newly emerging, standardised forms of the regional vernaculars in colonial India. Such a focus on the interplay between vernacular public discourses and early disciplinary agendas/institutional histories can provide a much-needed critical and historical lens to consider the centrality of economic drain theory to early nationalist discourse and its 'progression' into the purported caste-lessness of post-1947 development discourse.

'Language, Marginalization and the Tribal Question', self-initiated. Initiated in August 2017; likely date of completion, August 2019.

This project posits the field of tribal studies as a *prime site* to draw attention to the *thematics of marginalisation* and its methodological coding within the Indian social sciences. Post-1947, academic and official discourses agreed that marginalisation ought to be analysed via an idiom of castelessness, through the categories of economic and social backwardness. In recent decades, by highlighting its genesis in an engagement with tribal languages and their texts, the People's Linguistic Survey of India has drawn our attention to the strong co-relation between linguistic marginalisation and economic and political exclusion of tribal communities.

Against this, we prioritise developmentalism and reorganisation of the federal structure along linguistic lines, advanced as intertwined goals since the late colonial period, as major vantage points to unpack the ways in which the tribal question has been coded with respect to other categories of marginality.

'Institutional Frameworks and Policy Paradigms: Higher Education, Environment and Labour 1950–1990', self-initiated. Initiated in June 2017; likely date of completion, August 2019.

Recognising that social policy initiatives in the Indian context predate the post-1950s development project, and share a longer history with contestations over colonial reform through efforts to create new codes, institutions, knowledge-forms and practices, this paper posits alternative frames of reference drawing on the larger domain of the human sciences to explore aspects of post-1947 social policy. The focus will be on the realm of higher education policy between 1950 and the early 2000s.

■ MANOJ PANDA

(with Purnamita Dasgupta and William Joe) 'Pay Commissions: Fiscal Implications', 15th Finance Commission, Government of India. Initiated in June 2018; likely date of completion, October 2018.



This study will examine the rationale and history of the setting up of the central and state Pay Commissions and the principles underlying their recommendations. It will analyse the effect of Pay Commissions on the fiscal accounts of the centre and states, and provide projections for 2020–2025. It will consider arrears, wages, salaries and allowances. It will also analyse these in the context of international experience.

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(with Purnamita Dasgupta) 'Developing Future Socio-Economic Scenarios for India in the Context of Climate Change', funded by NATCOM, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and UNDP. Initiated in October 2017; likely date of completion, October 2018.

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■ BASANTA K. PRADHAN

'Perspective Plan for Odisha', funded by Government of Odisha. Initiated in September 2015; likely date of completion, October 2018.

This study aims to prepare a perspective plan for Odisha for years 2030 and beyond. The objectives of the plan would be projecting growth and income for 2036 keeping in view the current income and poverty alleviation scenario. The plan involves ascertaining investments required to realise the future targets for growth and income and investments and budgetary allocations for specific sectors like health, education, infrastructure, etc. Here we are trying to estimate a series for total (both public and private) capital formation.

'Fiscal Scenario in Punjab', funded by NITI Aayog. Initiated in September 2016; likely date of completion, August 2018.

The study intends to identify different deficit indicators for the state. It examines the debt position and discusses the alternative approaches to the debt-sustainability perspective of the state. Beyond the aggregate analysis, this study attempts to carry a disaggregate analysis of different components of the state's committed expenditure vis-à-vis the targets, and its comparison with those achieved by other major states in India. The study also aims to estimate the tax capacity and tax effort of the state using relevant econometric methods and to suggest policies to cope up with the challenges of fiscal consolidation in Punjab.

'Cyclically Adjusted Fiscal Balance for Centre and States in India', funded by the 15th Finance Commission. Initiated in May 2018; likely date of completion, September 2018.

The proposed study attempts to analyse cyclically adjusted fiscal balance for the central government and the average of all state governments in India post the 1990s. The methodology involves adjusting for one-off fiscal measures and then estimating CAB from the cyclically adjusted revenue and expenditures that are functions of elasticities of revenue and spending, respectively, and of the output gap. The study would attempt estimation of potential output using alternative methods such as Hodrik Prescott filter, the Band Pass filter of Christiano-Fitzgerald and the production function approach.

■ RASHMI RASTOGI

'Location of FDI across Indian States and the Role of Mineral Resources', self-initiated. Initiated in March 2018; likely date of completion, December 2018.

This study examines the role of mineral resources in the concentration of domestic and foreign direct investment across Indian states. It computes the mineral resource abundance of states, and analyses whether their resource endowment played any substantive role in attracting both domestic and foreign direct investment.

'Mineral Resource Endowment and FDI Inflows in India', self-initiated. Initiated in March 2018; likely date of completion, October 2018.

This study examines whether FDI in India is natural resource seeking. The study also includes the role of third countries in attracting FDI. It will include FDI inflows into India from several source countries from the year 2000 onwards.

■ PRAVAKAR SAHOO

'Capital Flows and its Impact on the Economy', funded by ICSSR. Likely date of completion, December 2018.

'One Belt One Road: Economic and Strategic Implications', self-initiated. Likely date of completion, December 2018.

'China and India's Services Exports', self-initiated. Likely date of completion, 2019.

'Basel-III and Indian Banking Sector', self-initiated. Likely date of completion, 2019.

'Capital Flows: Expansionary or Contractionary', self-initiated. Likely date of completion, 2018.

■ C.S.C. SEKHAR

(with Amita Baviskar and Purnamita Dasgupta) 'Risks, Returns and Resilience: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Climate Change and Agriculture', funded by ICSSR. Initiated on March 2, 2017; likely date of completion, March 2019.

Dryland agriculture in India has been marked by a severe crisis of reproduction over the last two decades. In an already precarious scenario, climate change adds another dimension of uncertainty, which farmers, as well as policymakers, are struggling to factor into their strategies for future well-being. What are the mechanisms available to the farmer for coping with this uncertainty? What are the resources that s/he can command—natural, financial, political and social? Are the pathways of coping different in different regions? How varied are risks and returns in different states? This study attempts to address these questions and understand this complex issue through a multi-disciplinary approach.



(with Amarnath Tripathi) 'Concurrent Evaluation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)', funded by Ministry of Agriculture. Initiated in November 2016, draft report submitted March 2018, final report expected to be completed by June 2018.

'Price Deficiency of Payments Scheme in Madhya Pradesh: Problems and Prospects', funded by Ministry of Agriculture. Initiated in April 2018; likely date of completion, June 2018.

■ RUBY ALAMBUSHA SINGH

'Prevalence of Early Marriage, Domestic Violence and its Impact on Women's Health in India', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Initiated in March 2017; likely date of completion, December 2018.

Although a growing body of evidence suggests that child marriage has adverse health and social consequences, there has been relatively little research on the association of child marriage with intimate partner violence (IPV). This study seeks to assess the effect of child marriage and domestic violence on women's sexual and reproductive health; to assess the linkages between child marriage and domestic violence; and to examine the relationship between marital violence and healthcare seeking behaviour.

■ SURESH SHARMA

(with PRC Staff) 'NHM Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh States Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs): 2016-17 Monitoring and Evaluation for 24 Districts', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Initiated in April 2017; likely date of completion, March 2018.

PRC Delhi will look at quality monitoring of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim States NHM PIPs for the monthly report. In this context, the PRC Delhi teams will be visiting North Sikkim and East Sikkim; Aligarh, Firozabad, Hathras, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Kannauj, Mirzapur, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sambhal, Shamli and Unnav in Uttar Pradesh; and Almora, Nanital, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Dehradun, Hardwar, Pauri Garhwal and Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand to review and analyse the suitable quality parameters. The study uses the structured interview schedule to examine progress on the basis of key conditionalities and incentives and roadmap for priority action as suggested in the RoPs.

'Mohalla Clinics: Providing Quality Healthcare to the Deprived?', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Initiated in April 2018; likely date of completion, December 2019.

The Delhi government's health system works on the primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare model. The Mohalla clinics aim to take diagnostics and treatment of minor ailments to people's doorsteps. Another objective is to reduce the footfall in tertiary care hospitals. The government's stated objective is to have 1,000 functioning Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics (AAMCs). This study seeks to examine the extent to which the AAMCs have made access to the healthcare system easier. The study proposes to collect primary data through field visits to randomly selected Mohalla Clinics. Personal interviews using structured questionnaires would be conducted with the beneficiaries, doctors and other staff. The observation approach would be employed.

'Why do Health Care Services Still Elude the Baiga Tribe of Dindori? A Primary Study into the Gaps in Functioning of Healthcare Mechanism', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Initiated in April 2018; likely date of completion, December 2019.

The socio-economic and demographic indicators for the Scheduled Tribes display acute heterogeneity across the Indian states and are influenced by manifold deprivation factors. There exist various tribal groups battling for survival and good health. One such group is the Baiga tribe residing in Madhya Pradesh. The study focuses on the delivery, accessibil-

ity and utilisation of healthcare mechanism among the Baigas. The study would be based on primary and secondary data collection. Data would be collected at two levels, the facility level and household level. The findings of this study would help in tribal-centric policy formulation.

'Living Arrangements & Health-Related Quality of Life among Elderly in India', funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Initiated in June 2018; likely date of completion, November 2019.

The psychological benefit of living with others can have a positive effect on various aspects of elderly health, including cognitive functions. A higher proportion of older men are married (due to greater life expectancy of women) and are economically independent compared to older women. Older women are more likely to have lower social networks, experience disabilities and live alone. Taking these nuances into account, the study aims to assess the impact of differences in living arrangements on the health of the elderly. Using data from the second round of the IHDS survey, the impact of varying living arrangements on self-rated health will be assessed. The living arrangement variable distinguishes whether the individual lives alone or with others.

■ SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

'Urban Futures: Satellite Mapping, Big Data and the Politics of Space at the Margins of the Indian City', self-initiated. Initiated in March 2018; likely date of completion, December 2019.

This study investigates discourses and practices of urban governance based upon notions of technologically driven urban futures. It explores relationships between official, digitally mapped visions of the city and 'raw' maps produced by residents of 'Unauthorised Localities' (ULs). The state produces satellite maps to develop 'transparent' and 'accurate' urban development policies, particularly in relation to shanty town localities. These, however, are contested by the urban poor, thereby revealing complex relations between technology, urbanism, governance, land markets and marginality. Using the case of an 'inaccurately' mapped street, the presentation seeks to build upon a social science approach to analyse techno-positive discourses of urban governance in India.

(with Ayona Datta) 'Learning from Small Cities: Governing Imagined Futures, and the Dynamics of Change in India's Smart Urban Age', funded by ICSSR-ESRC. Initiated in June 2018; likely date of completion, June 2020.

This study seeks to critically examine how state, urban authorities and citizens of small cities living through rapid and radical urban transformations imagine and realise new urban futures. Taking an asset-based approach to infrastructure access and provision, we will examine how small cities learn to translate state imaginations of urban futures into 'actually existing' smart cities, how ordinary citizens in these cities live with the dynamics of these changes, how they value assets (tangible and intangible) and how this combined knowledge might be mobilised towards more sustainable smart cities policies and projects. Jalandhar, Nashik and Shimla will form the focus of research.

■ SHRADDHA SRIVASTAVA (ICSSR POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW)

'Dietary Acculturation and its Consequences: With Special Reference to Other States' Students in Delhi University', initiated under ICSSR Post-Doctoral Fellowship in February 2017.

The focus of this research is to observe the dietary acculturation among undergraduate students who come from other states and live in the hostels of the University of Delhi, paying guest accommodation or apartments. The prime objective is to explore students' dietary behaviour in a new culture and to evaluate the patterns and extent to which they change their dietary practices. The affecting factors of dietary acculturation would also be studied.



