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*About the photograph:
 Guwahati city at night
 Photo courtesy: Pixabay*

Measuring South Asia's economy from outer space

Economic growth is a key concern for economists, political leaders and the broader population. But how confident are we that the available data on economic activity paints an accurate picture of a country's performance? Measuring Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the most standard measure of economic activity, is especially challenging in developing countries, where the informal sector is large and institutional constraints can be severe. In addition, many countries only provide GDP measures annually and at the national level. Not surprisingly, GDP growth estimates are often met with skepticism.

New technologies offer an opportunity to strengthen economic measurement. Evening luminosity observed from satellites has been

shown to be a good proxy for economic activity. As shown in *Figure 1*, there is a strong correlation between nightlight intensity and GDP levels in South Asia: the higher the nightlight intensity on the horizontal axis, the stronger the economic activity on the vertical axis. In India, the correlation is 0.9 and highly statistically significant.

However, measuring nightlight activity is challenging and comes with a few caveats. For example, clouds, moon light, and radiance from the sun can affect measurement accuracy, which then requires filtering and standardizing. On the other hand, nightlight data has a lot of advantages like being available in high-frequency and with a very high spatial resolution.

In the latest edition of *South Asia Economic Focus*, we use variations in nightlight intensity to analyze economic trends and illustrate how this data can help predict GDP over time and across space. We show that in the case of South Asia, predicted GDP numbers using nightlight intensity closely track official National Account measures at the aggregate level, and – as shown in *Figure 2* – provide a granular picture of GDP per capita at subnational levels.

As we document in the report, nightlight intensity also yields new insights on recent economic developments. For example, the major shocks experienced by Nepal in 2015 had very different impacts across districts



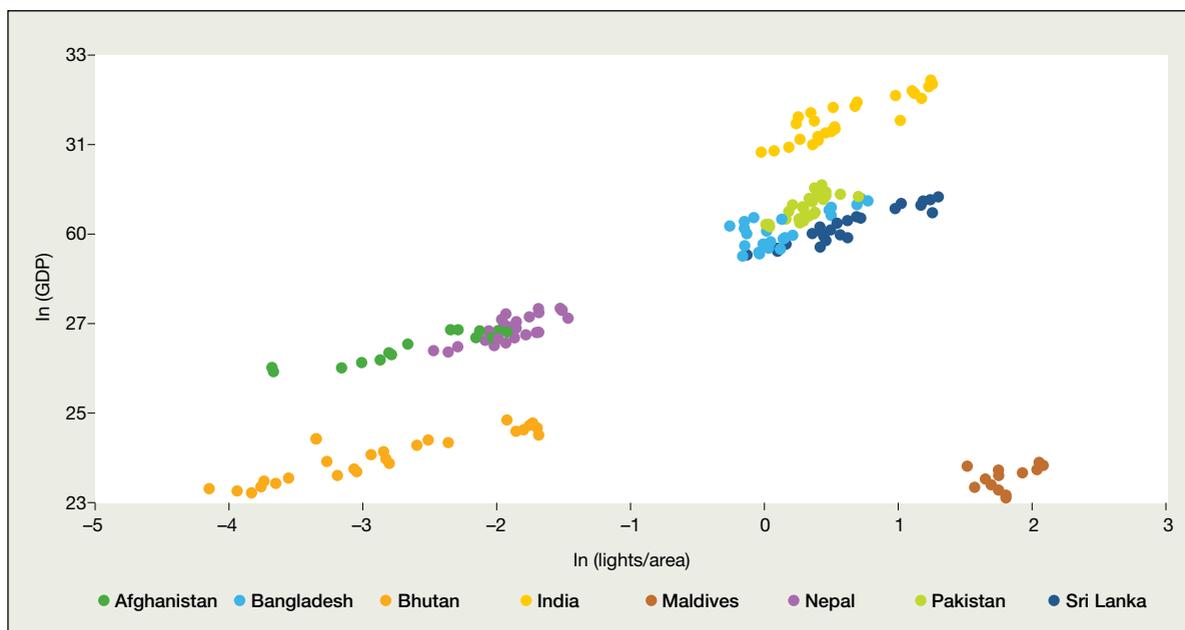
Photo by World Bank

and in Afghanistan, local surges in conflict reduced local growth for up to one quarter.

In another application, we illustrate that nightlights can provide a new perspective on the effects of demonetization, during which all 500 and 1,000 rupee banknotes were declared invalid in India in November of last year. This intervention has potential benefits in the medium term, but there is clear agreement that it will take more time to assess the extent to which these benefits materialized.

In the short term, on the other hand, it might have adversely affected economic activity. But it is difficult to tell what the short-term impact was, or how it was distributed across population groups and there is considerable disagreement on how large the it was. The shortage of relevant data partly explains why these issues are still being so lively debated. Nightlight data provides interesting insights in this respect.

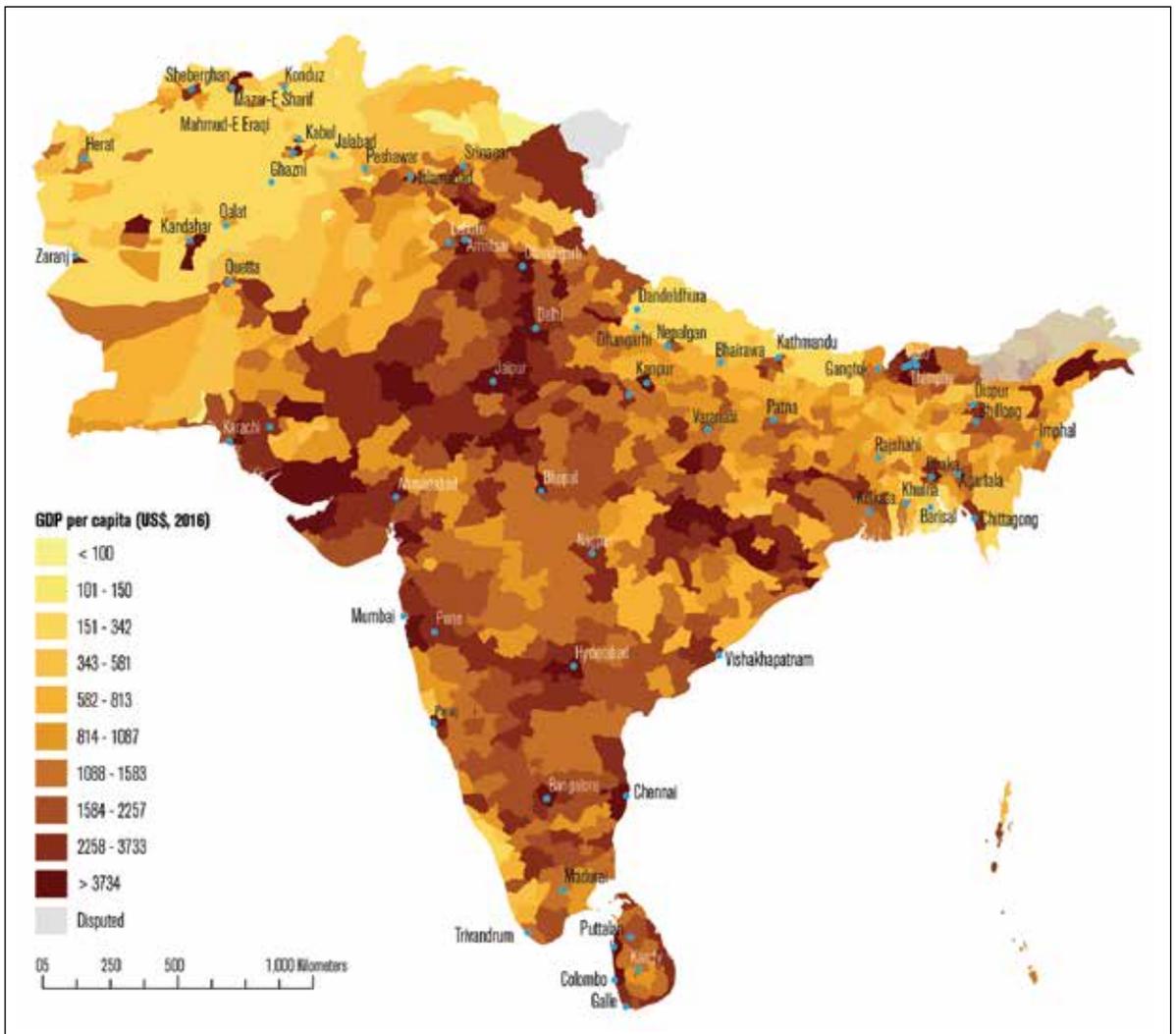
Figure 1: Nightlight intensity increases with economic activity



Nightlight intensity and GDP growth



Figure 2: Nightlight data can be used to predict GDP per capita at the district level





At the aggregate level, a comparison of nightlight intensity in FY2015 and FY2016 suggests that demonetization had a small and short-lived effect on economic activity. There is a dip in nightlight intensity, but it only lasts for about two months. On the other hand, the local impact was large in more informal districts, where cash must have played a more important role in supporting transactions. Identifying informal areas is not straightforward, but it seems safe to assume that informality is higher in rural districts, in districts with low access to finance, and in those where regular wage workers account for a lower share of total employment.

In the latest edition of *South Asia Economic Focus* we estimate quarterly GDP at the district level, based on local nightlight intensity and rural population. Local GDP levels are then used to compute local growth

rates, and to assess how they were affected by demonetization. In India's case, there is evidence that poorer states grow more slowly, and these poorer states may also be characterized by higher levels of informality. If so, just comparing growth rates across formal and informal districts would overestimate the impact of demonetization. To address this possible bias, we analyze the difference between the local GDP growth rate in the third quarter of FY2017 and in the previous year (or an average of the last three years) and then compare this difference for more and less informal districts.

The results suggest that more informal districts performed worse. The difference in local growth relative to a normal year was very small in urban districts, as well as in those with greater access to finance and with more prevalent regular wage employment. On the other hand, more informal districts experienced drops in local GDP in the range of 4.7 to 7.3 percentage points. Based on nightlight intensity, demonetization seems to have had a short-lived effect at the aggregate level, but a noticeable impact on rural, unbanked and informal districts.

While providing new economic insights, big data from outer space is no replacement for more traditional – and terrestrial – statistical measurement. New technologies can help reach new frontiers, but they cannot replace information from censuses, surveys





and administrative records that statistical agencies collect, curate and disseminate.

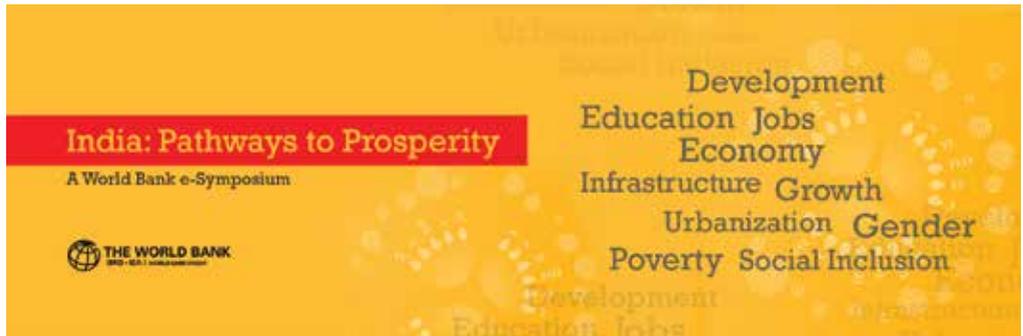
Unfortunately, many of these statistical agencies in South Asia face important challenges. Surveys do not cover well the informal sector, respondents are not always truthful, and information is not captured with sufficient spatial granularity. Resources and capacity are limited and in some

cases, technical independence, access to information, and the protection of privacy need to be improved. Building trust that growth figures do not come “out of the blue” will require a clear strategy toward stronger statistical systems. 🌐

Written by Robert Carl Michael Beyer, a Young Professional at the World Bank



Three job deficits in unfolding India story



Rising labor earnings have driven India's recent decline in poverty. But the quantity and quality of jobs created raise concerns about the sustainability of poverty reduction, and the prospects for enlarging the middle class. The period after 2005 can be best described as one of a growing jobs deficit. Three deficits actually: i) a deficit in the overall number of jobs, ii) a deficit in the number of good jobs, and iii) a deficit in the number of suitable jobs for women, say Martin Rama, World Bank's Chief Economist, South Asia Region, Urmila Chatterjee, Economist, World Bank and Rinku Murgai, Lead Economist, World Bank.



The rapid decline in poverty in India between 2005 and 2012, the most recent period for which data are available, was driven mainly by higher labor earnings. This is not surprising given that the capacity to work tends to be the main – and often the

only – asset of poor households. Over this period, wages for unskilled workers increased sharply. There was also a marked shift towards non-farm jobs, which on average pay more than jobs in agriculture. These two trends gave a substantial boost to labor



earnings and propelled millions of Indian households above the poverty line. While this was indeed a spectacular achievement, there are reasons to worry about its long-term sustainability.

A large majority of those who escaped poverty did not gain entry into the middle class. Instead, they moved slightly above the poverty line and remain vulnerable to slipping back. The deficit in the number of jobs created after 2005, as well as in their quality, explains these high levels of vulnerability. This period can, therefore, be described as one of a growing jobs deficit. Or rather three of them, as we discuss in a recent paper:

- a deficit in the overall number of jobs,
- a deficit in the number of good jobs, and
- a deficit in the number of suitable jobs for women.

An overall deficit of jobs

While all three deficits can be traced to the pattern of India's economic transformation during this period, they are better appreciated from a statistical point of view. Between 2005 and 2012, net job growth in the economy was 0.6 percent per year. This was much less than the growth in the working age population that was not in school – which stood at 1.9 percent per year. In absolute numbers, of these 13 million potential entrants into the workforce every year during this period,

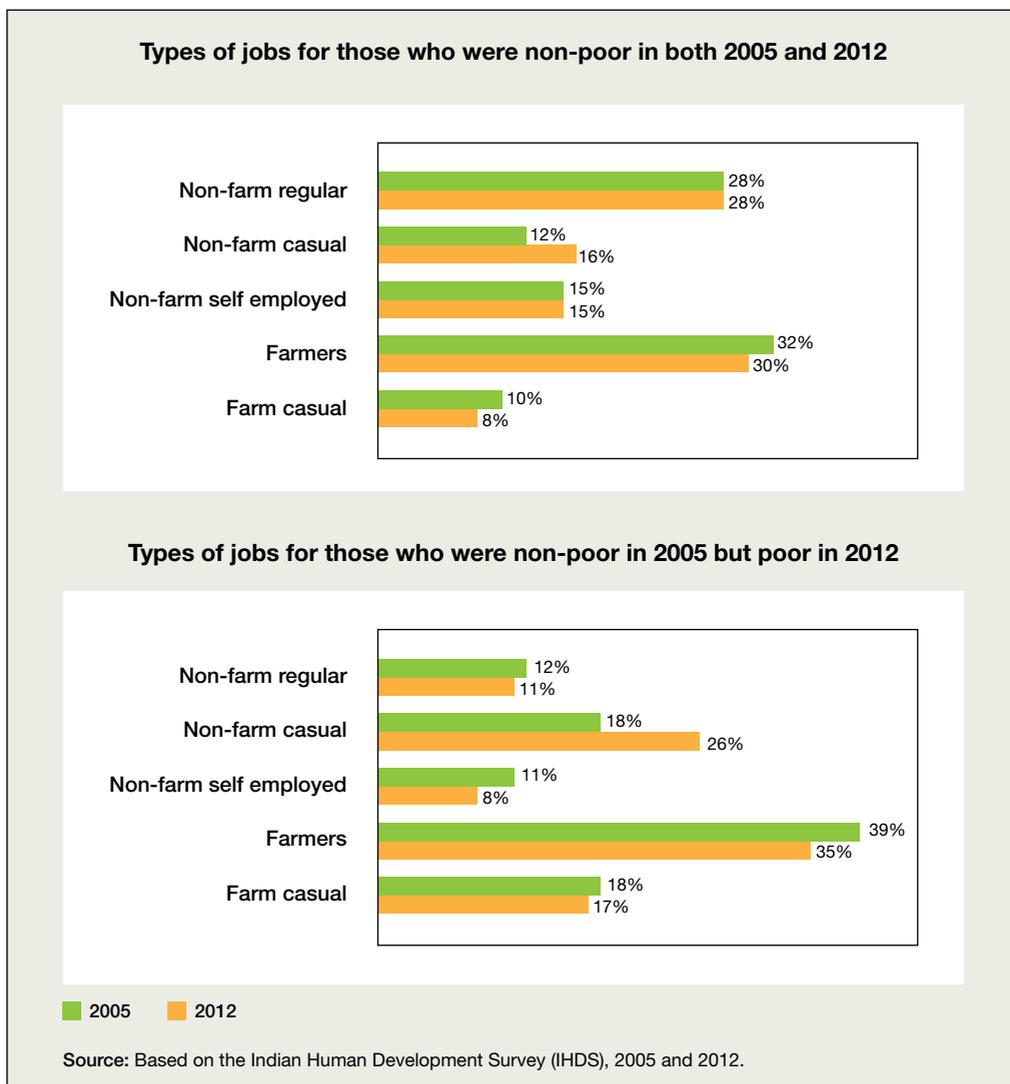
only 3 million got a job. In a young and increasingly aspirational society, this growing jobs deficit has the potential to turn the much-awaited demographic dividend into a demographic curse.

A deficit of good jobs

On closer examination, it is not as if job creation came to a standstill after 2005. On the contrary, there was considerable dynamism in the informal segments of the economy, especially in rural areas. As could be expected in a phase of structural transformation, there was a substantial decline in employment in agriculture, with nearly 34 million farm jobs lost between 2005 and 2012. Meanwhile there was a boom in construction jobs, which accounted for nearly half of the expansion in non-farm employment. However, construction jobs tend to be casual. Their wages are



Figure 1: Regular jobs support a more durable escape from poverty



set on a daily basis, or through short-term contracts, and they provide no form of social protection. While jobs like these help people escape poverty, they do not take them much further than that.

Instead, transitions into the middle class are associated with regular, salaried jobs. The likelihood of a household durably escaping poverty between 2005 and 2012 was higher if a larger share of its members had regular jobs (figure 1). On the other hand, households that slipped into poverty between these two years saw a growing share of their family members employed as casual workers.

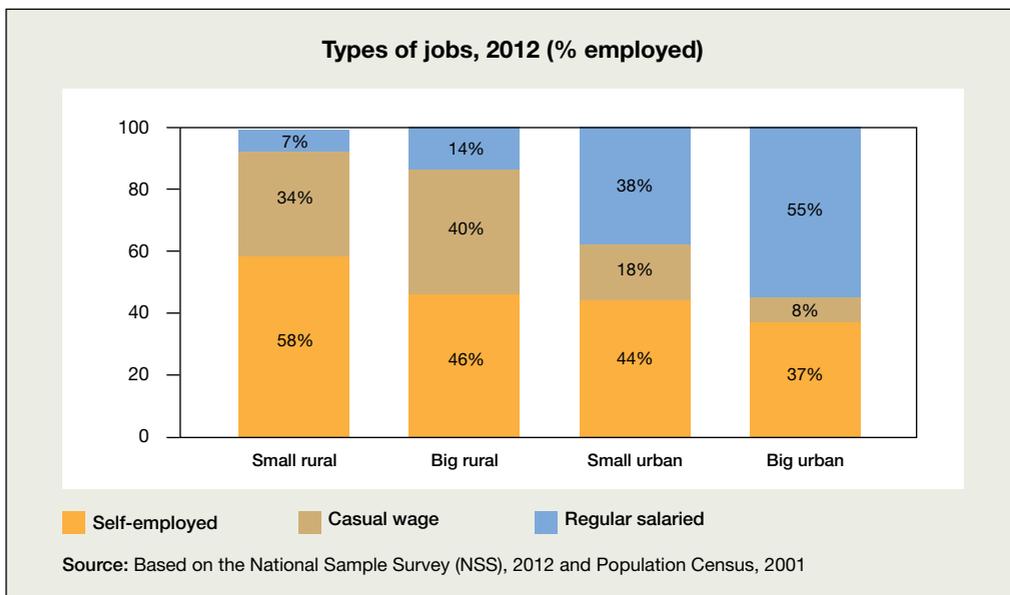
In principle, urbanization brings with it the promise of better jobs. In India too, it is true that large urban areas have a substantially higher share of regular jobs (figure 2). By contrast, small towns have far fewer regular jobs to offer, and in rural areas these jobs

are rare. Therefore, unless small towns and large villages, where most of India's poor and vulnerable live, can ensure the vibrant creation of regular jobs, building a sizeable middle class could remain an elusive goal for the country.

While big cities have the highest share of regular jobs, they also have the largest overall jobs deficit. In fact, when moving from small villages to large cities, the scarcity of



Figure 2: Regular, salaried jobs are found mainly in big cities



jobs relative to the working age population not in school increases across the rural-urban gradation. So, how can one reconcile this larger share of regular jobs with an altogether greater scarcity of good jobs? The answer is simple: in urban areas the share of regular jobs may be greater among those who are employed, but fewer people are at work in these places relative to the working age population. And, in urban locations, it is mainly the women who are not working.

A deficit in suitable jobs for women

This brings us to the third deficit – the scarcity of suitable jobs for women. Historically, India’s female labor force participation rates in urban areas have been low – hovering around 20 percent. But one of the most striking developments after 2005 has been the large withdrawal of women from the rural labor force. As rural areas become increasingly urban, they are beginning to look increasingly

urban in the magnitude of their jobs deficit too. By contrast, in small villages over 70 percent of women are employed on the farm, as agricultural activities continue to be important in these areas. Elsewhere, however, manufacturing tends to be the largest employer of women outside of farming. In towns and cities, on the other hand, women more often hold professional jobs in health, education and public administration. In these areas, construction work, while significant, does not employ too many women.

The structure of female employment by sector is revealing of the kinds of jobs that are seen as more suitable for women. For instance, women are more likely to work when jobs are located close to their homes and allow multi-tasking, as in the case of farming. They are also more likely to work when jobs offer regular wages, as in the case of manufacturing. Or when jobs have social protection benefits attached to them, as in case of the health, education and public administration, where the public sector is the dominant player. Unfortunately, such jobs are few and far between. 🌐

Reference:

Urmila Chatterjee, Rinku Murgai and Martin Rama (2015) “*Employment Outcomes along the Rural-Urban Gradation in India.*” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 50 (26-27): 5-10, June 27.

This blog was originally published in the Indian Express on 25th July, 2016.



Towards a clean India

State machinery and communities have come together to initiate behaviour change

Three years into SBM, it is time to reinforce the focus on sustained outcomes. It will be essential to reach all sections of society, give women a greater role, and address the social issues around the manual emptying of latrines says Guangzhe Chen, Senior Director, Water Global Practice, at the World Bank



When Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014, it marked the beginning of the world's largest ever sanitation drive. Now, a 2017 survey by the Quality Council of India finds that access to toilets by rural households has increased to 62.45 per cent, and that 91 per cent of those who have a toilet, use it. Given India's size and diversity, it is no surprise that implementation varies widely across states. Even so, the fact that almost every Indian now has sanitation on the mind is a victory by itself.

Achieving a task of this magnitude will not be easy. Bangladesh took 15 years to become open defecation free (ODF), while Thailand took 40 years to do so. Meeting sanitation targets is not a one-off event. Changing centuries-old habits of open defecation is a complex and long-term undertaking.

When the state machinery, local officials and communities come together to focus on behaviour change, they are frequently successful. Rajasthan, for instance, has tripled the share of people with access to sanitation to nearly 70 per cent since 2011 by sending motivators from village to village to inspire people to construct toilets, and to return a few weeks later to follow up. In Churu district, one young sarpanch even loaded a camel cart with a battery-operated computer to make it easier for villagers to complete their applications.

Villages in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana and Chhattisgarh have set up nigrani (vigilance) committees to exhort people defecating in the open to use toilets. In Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district, sarpanches and block officials who have sustained their communities' ODF status are honoured.

Mega stars like Amitabh Bachhan and Anushka Sharma have led the “Darwaza Bandh” campaign to change age-old practices, focusing on rural men who are often the last to start using a latrine. Global experience confirms that people are more likely to use a toilet that they have constructed – or at least paid for – themselves. A 2014 study shows that half as many people continued to defecate in the open after they constructed their own toilet, compared with those for whom the government had built or fully subsidised a latrine.

Accordingly, UP mobilised unemployed youth to encourage families to build toilets with their own money. Bijnor district used only 57 per cent of the funds allocated to it for toilet construction. At the same time, one in four of the district’s villages declared themselves ODF. Experience from rural Bihar shows that households are willing to pay for their own toilets. In Rohtas district, Sushila Devi – a mother of four who works as a casual labourer – took a loan of Rs 12,000 through her self-help group to construct a latrine.

Scaling up good experiences is equally important. In Bijnor, the district collector set up a control room to track the progress of motivators in real time. State and district officials are now learning from each other, and the Ministry of Drinking Water and

Sanitation is documenting their successes. However, scaling up also requires staffing up. A recent review found that 30 per cent of state level posts sanctioned under SBM are vacant – vacancies at the district level as high as 50 per cent.

Three years into SBM, it is time to reinforce the focus on sustained outcomes. It will be essential to reach all sections of society, give women a greater role, and address the social issues around the manual emptying of latrines. Since the construction of toilets alone is not a measure of success, the World Bank’s support for SBM Grameen focuses on incentivising their sustained use. The Government of India and the World Bank agreed to disburse project funds based on verification of toilet use by an independent agency, which is now embarking on a large-scale household survey to verify the data reported by states and districts.

We must now capitalise on the SBM’s momentum to put an end to open defecation. This will improve the health of India’s children, provide dignity and safety to its women, and achieve a clean India. 🌐

This article was originally published in the Indian Express newspaper on 30 September 2017

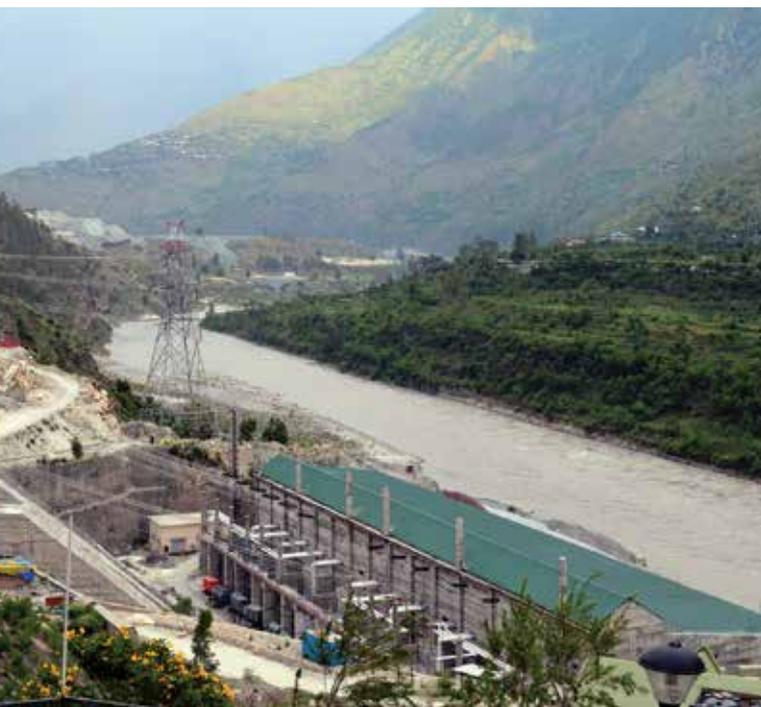


ICR Update

This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Report (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.

Rampur Hydropower Project



Rampur Hydropower Project

Approval Date:	13 September, 2007
Closing Date:	31 December, 2014
Total Project Cost	US\$ 697.5 million
Bank Financing:	US\$ 400 million
Implementing Agency:	Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited
Outcome:	Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Low or Negligible
Overall Bank Performance:	Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory

Context

The power sector was plagued with low levels of connectivity, especially in rural areas, high rates of loss in distribution, and poor infrastructure which needed rehabilitation. Exploring cleaner power generation options was very important to the Government of India.

The government envisaged that the Bank's reengagement in the hydropower sector in India, beginning with the Rampur Hydropower Project (RHP), would provide international experience of good practice for hydropower development, and help establish international technical and sustainability practices in the Himalayan region, the home of much of India's untapped hydro resources.

The Bank's broader engagement in the power sector sought to support the government's priorities of improving electricity services, expanding access and optimizing the

utilization of indigenous resources, while also helping to put the country on a lower carbon emission path.

Project Development Objectives

The objective was to improve the reliability of India's Northern Electricity Grid through the addition of renewable, low carbon energy from the Rampur Hydropower Project; and to improve the effectiveness of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) with respect to the preparation and safe implementation of economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable hydropower projects.

The main beneficiaries under the project were the Northern Regional Grid, which benefitted from low-cost and reliable power supply; SJVN, which benefitted from increased technical and management capacity; and the local population whose standards of living improved through investments in infrastructure such as roads,

creation of employment opportunities, and various community development activities.

Achievements

At completion, the project was synchronized with the Northern Grid and was running at its installed capacity of 412 MW on a commercial basis. It had produced 1957 GWh by mid-2015, and the expected request for annual production from Rampur for fiscal year (April 2015-March 2016) was 1878 GWh, above the indicator target of 1770 GWh.

At project completion, measures were fully implemented to decrease the number of outage days (no power production), in the wet season, from 32 days in a year to only 5 days in a year.

All affected people were resettled and/or were fully compensated for loss of land by 2007 before start of civil works. At project completion, resettlement and compensation to affected people, community development, and environmental mitigation of direct impacts were all satisfactorily completed. An independent impact assessment of the affected indicated that 87 percent of project affected families reported an increase in income while the share of families with an increase in income or assets was 99 percent. The final evaluation also demonstrates an increase in literacy rates, permanent housing, and size of houses.

Lessons Learnt

Hydropower projects are considered difficult due to technical, social, environmental and governance issues. Rampur is an example of what is possible with a willing client and the right technical support. The following are the key lessons learned from the project's execution.

- Trust and communication between the Bank team and the client are key to managing challenging projects. The emphasis on maintaining communication as a specific objective in all aspects of the project, led to open and transparent discussion of issues, as and when they arose, in an atmosphere of mutual respect.
- It is essential to build trust through early consultation, communication and interaction with the local community.

Strong efforts were made by SJVN to build a good relationship with the affected community from very early on. Proactive strategies, such as holding training sessions for the local communities placed SJVN at the forefront of communication processes which have been emulated in other projects in the state. The Project Information Center set up at site provided a one-stop window for project-affected communities.

- Plan as far as possible, but ensure that there is a structure in place to adapt as issues arise during the project. Due to the geological conditions, implementing hydropower projects in the Himalayas is extremely complex. The project would have benefitted from additional geotechnical investigations during preparation, which would have helped in mitigating risks during construction work.
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) practices should be included in the contracts with the main contractors and the contractor should be incentivized to hold their subcontractors to these standards. Effort should be made at the bidding stage to include the OHS practices among the requirements for the contractors, but this alone is not sufficient. There must be incentives and penalties in place in order to achieve an acceptable standard. It should also be ensured that the supervising engineers for the project have the skills to monitor and enforce such provisions.
- Project design can affect the level of importance attached to the softer components of the project. Designing the project with two technical components and a separate institutional strengthening component allowed the attention of the client, the government and the Bank to be focused on this aspect. SJVN was keen to develop as an organization, but had these elements been subsumed within the technical components then it would have been more difficult to monitor these aspects and bring them to the attention of management. 🌐

Interview

The World Bank is committed to supporting India's solar energy push: Simon Stolp

India has a massive need for energy. Its per capita consumption of electricity is less than one third the world average.

With nearly 300 days of sunshine every year, India has among the best conditions in the world to capture and use solar energy and help light up homes of millions of people who are yet to receive electricity. Excerpts from an interview with Simon Stolp, Lead Energy Specialist, World Bank.



Question: *India is making great strides in the area of solar power. Can you elaborate for us India's journey thus far?*

India is emerging as a front runner in the global fight against climate change. The Government of India plans to increase solar photovoltaic (PV) generating capacity to 100 GW by 2022, signalling investments in the order of \$80 billion. These plans also form an important part of India's National Determined Contributions to climate change, under the Paris Agreement.

That's good news, because if the world expects to reach its Paris Climate Agreement objective of containing global warming to under a 2-degrees Celsius increase, it is imperative for India – the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide – to be a global leader on renewable energy.

To date, progress in meeting India's solar targets has been reasonable – with almost 18 GW of installed capacity already providing electricity to India's consumers. Prices for solar power have tumbled by more than 30 percent since these targets were set, and solar power tariffs now compete head-to-head with conventional sources of power, including coal.

Question: What are the emerging challenges facing the solar sector?

As India seeks to increase the pace of solar power development, the challenges to the solar sector will only become more evident. Many in the industry have questioned the sustainability of recent aggressive tariff competition, and several recent deals have struggled to attract finance. Over time, there is likely to be a constraint on the volume of financing, particularly through domestic sources. The ability of the Indian grid to absorb higher proportions of variable renewable energy will be increasingly tested, and plans to develop wholesale power markets to accommodate a more dynamic physical system will need to be accelerated.

Of most importance, the commercial performance of India's distribution utilities urgently needs to be fixed – the capacity of distribution companies (Discoms) to generate sufficient revenues to pay for renewable power, or any power at all for that matter, continues to plague the overall health of the sector and place an unnecessary burden on public finances. It is telling that public sector institutions such as NTPC and Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) continue to dominate the solar power market – effectively absorbing the risk that the sector's poor finances and payment performance continue to present to private developers.

Question: What has been the role of the World Bank?

We are committed to supporting India's solar energy push. The Bank is providing more than \$1 billion to support India's solar plans, starting with a Grid Connected Rooftop Solar project that aims to put solar panels on rooftops across the country, and 575 MW of energy has already been financed through this project.

Exactly a year ago, on June 30, 2016, we signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consisting of 121 countries led by India, to collaborate on increasing solar energy use around the world and mobilize \$1 trillion in investments by 2030.

The Bank is also working with India on solar parks. This is expected to increase the availability of private financing, introduce new technologies, and enable the development of common infrastructure to support privately developed solar parks across India.

Looking ahead, we are considering ways in which to leverage our capital and mobilize commercial financing for the solar energy sector. (See World Bank support to solar sector for details).

Question: What is the potential market for rooftop solar in India?

Solar parks need land, and land is scarce in a densely-populated country like India. Rooftops, on the other hand, hold huge potential.

Of the 100 GW target for solar power development, the Government of India intends to provide 40 GW through grid-connected solar rooftops. Tapping the rooftop solar market will be critical for India to meet its ambitious solar targets. However, until recently the solar rooftop market has struggled to grow – although the business case was strong for commercial and industrial consumers in particular. While the costs of solar panels were falling dramatically, financing for rooftop was difficult to come by and very costly. The challenges in this segment of the solar market are evident in the numbers – of the almost 18 GW of solar capacity added by India to date, only 1.8 GW has been installed on rooftops.

Overall, our aim is to mobilise affordable financing at scale, de-risk renewable markets, and develop institutional capacities of the public sector owned entities to provide an enabling environment for solar power development.

Question: How is the partnership with State Bank of India on the rooftop project coming along?

Over the past year, things have begun to turn around. Since June 2017, when the World Bank announced a \$625 million loan to SBI to provide discounted finance for rooftop solar installations on factories and institutions, market response has been overwhelming. In the past six months alone, SBI has approved 575 MW of rooftop solar financing, giving a huge boost to India's solar rooftop program.

Of course, this isn't the end of the story – SBI and the World Bank have made early inroads into the development of the solar rooftop market, but significant challenges remain. For this reason, the World Bank is also supporting a significant capacity development program which will support financiers, developers, regulators and distribution utilities in the development of this important market segment. This capacity development program is now under early implementation and is already supporting significant market developments, which will eventually support further expansion within the sector. 🌐

World Bank support to solar sector

- **Rooftop Solar PV:** The Bank is providing low cost financing to rooftop solar developers under a \$625 million Program for Results (PforR) financing through the State Bank of India (SBI).
- **Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks:** The Bank is financing public investments in solar parks developed under a public-private partnership model. Bank financing will support the development of common infrastructure which will support privately developed solar parks in a number of states across India.
 - For the 750 MW Rewa solar park project in Madhya Pradesh, the World Bank is providing financing for shared infrastructure – reducing up-front costs to private developers, whilst the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has supported the MP government in the overall management and structuring of the project and the development of strong, bankable bid documents. IFC is now also financing the private development of generation within the Rewa solar park. This support resulted in a then record low tariff of 2.97 INR per unit.
 - World Bank and IFC are now seeking to replicate this success on a state-by-state basis by working with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to provide both financing (through the shared infrastructure project) and advisory support for further solar park development.
- **Innovative Solar Technology and Storage:** The Bank financing to the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) will bring innovative solar and hybrid technologies to market as well as help de-risk and demonstrate commercial viability. A number of emerging technologies, including wind-solar hybrid (with or without storage), energy storage, and floating solar PV will be supported by the Project.
- **IFC has also been a significant supporter of the solar power sector.** IFC has backed Azure Power Renewables (Solar), Acme Solar, Green Infra (Wind + Solar), Sun Edison (Solar), Chint (Solar), and Applied Solar (offgrid) among others with equity and /or debt, representing a total investment of over US\$ 360 million. 🌐

Recent Project Approvals

Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project



The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$318 million loan to the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project for promoting climate resilient agriculture technologies, improving water management practices, and increasing market opportunities for small and marginal farmers.

About 500,000 farmers, of which a majority are small and marginal, are expected to benefit from improved and modernized tank irrigation systems.

The Project will rehabilitate and modernize about 4,800 irrigation tanks and 477 check dams, spread across 66 sub-basins, in delivering bulk water to irrigation systems. Rehabilitating and modernizing irrigation tanks will improve the reliability and availability of irrigation water for farming communities, making them less prone to

climatic hazards. More than 160,000 ha of currently partially irrigated lands will come into full irrigation.

By helping farmers access modern technologies, linking them to markets, and providing postharvest management support, the Project will enable farmers to shift from a mono crop paddy system to mixed cropping including high-value crops (fruits, vegetables, and spices), pulses, oilseeds, and millets.

To enhance the ability of crops to withstand expected adverse impacts of climate change, the Project will support smallholder producers adopt new conservation technologies such as the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and Sustainable Sugar Initiative (SSI). They reduce average water usage by 35 percent and increase yields by 22 percent per ha. It is expected to increase the yield of rice, maize, and pulses by 18–20 percent. 🌍

Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$100 million loan to promote rural enterprises, facilitate their access to finance, and create employment opportunities for youth, particularly women in selected blocks of Tamil Nadu across 26 districts.

The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project will create an enabling environment for producer organizations and enterprises to promote businesses across select value chains. Based on an analysis, communities will identify commodities and subsectors in the value chain for preparing business

plans. A key focus will be on helping women entrepreneurs build businesses.

It will also specifically support eligible households from socially and culturally disadvantaged groups harness their existing assets, skills, and resources; break their entry barriers to value-added economic activities;

enhance their ability to access finance, markets, technology, and related support services; help them graduate to value-added economic activities with higher returns such as garment manufacturing and food processing units, eco-tourism ventures, and businesses around creative industries. 



Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project

A \$40 million Project, to India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh (UP), was approved by the World Bank Board of Executive Directors to increase tourism-related benefits for local communities.



The Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project will support the state government's priority of re-structuring tourism in a way that optimizes the state assets in an inclusive and sustainable manner directly benefiting poor residents and local entrepreneurs, such as rickshaw drivers, local artisans and street vendors, in both economic and non-economic terms.

The Project will help enhance their linkages with the tourism value chain, while improving living conditions for some of the state's poorest residents through better infrastructure and services. Such "pro-poor tourism development approach" is expected to help the state better manage its unique assets, improve quality of life, energize local communities and provide job opportunities for people, particularly women and youth, living near selected tourist attractions.

The Project will focus on Agra and the Braj region, which despite being two of the prime tourist and pilgrimage destinations of India and UP, have some of the state's highest poverty rates. 

Recent Project Signings

The Skill India Mission Operation

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$250 million loan agreement to support India's efforts to better equip its young workforce with employable skills so that youth who enter the labor market every year can contribute to India's economic growth and prosperity.

Around 12 million young people (age group 15–29 years) are moving into the labor force every year with various levels of educational qualifications. The Skill India Mission Operation (SIMO) will focus on providing skills training opportunities for adult workers between the ages 15 to 59 (underemployed or unemployed), who are either illiterate or who

have completed primary education or less. The Program will also increase the market relevance of short-term skill development programs (3–12 months or up to 600 hours) at the national and state level. A special focus of the program will be to provide placement and entrepreneurship opportunities to women and increase their exposure to skills training.

The agreement for the program was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; and Junaid Ahmad, Country Director, World Bank India on behalf of the World Bank. 🌐



Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$125 million credit agreement for the Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE), which is aimed at improving the quality of long-term vocational training provided in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and apprenticeships.

STRIVE is a five-year government program which will help improve the performance of ITIs; increase the capacities of state governments to support them; improve

teaching and learning; and broaden Apprenticeship Training. This Program will support vocational training in 300 ITIs and 100 industrial clusters and improve state systems in all ITIs across India.

The agreement for the project was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; and Hisham Abdo, Operations Manager and Acting Country Director, World Bank, India on behalf of the World Bank. 🌐

Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$98 million loan agreement and \$2 million grant agreement to help India increase its power generation capacity through cleaner, renewable energy sources.

The Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project will finance the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), to provide sub-loans to select states to invest in various solar parks, mostly under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MNRE) Solar Park Scheme. The first two solar parks to be supported under the Project are in the Rewa and Mandasaur

districts of Madhya Pradesh, with targeted installed capacities of 750 MW and 250 MW, respectively. In addition, other states where potential solar parks could be supported under this Project are in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Haryana.

The Agreement for the Project was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; K S Popli, Chairman and Managing Director, on behalf of IREDA; and Hisham Abdo, Acting Country Director, World Bank India, on behalf of the World Bank. 🌐

Event

International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

New Delhi • 15-16 January, 2018

At the two-day workshop participants took stock of impact of disasters on different infrastructure sectors, highlighted the good practices in making infrastructure disaster resilient; and identified critical gaps in current practices that need to be addressed in the coming years.

The workshop brought together experts from partner countries, multilateral development banks, the United Nations, the private sector and academia.

World Bank Country Director Junaid Ahmad highlighted three critical areas that countries need to focus on for resilient infrastructure – efficient and credit worthy institutions, the ability to leverage financial markets, and a functioning federal structure. 🌐



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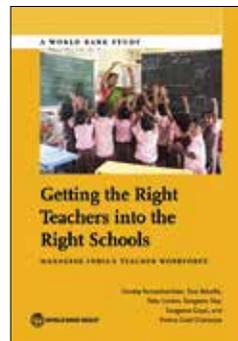
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India Publications

Getting the Right Teachers into the Right Schools: Managing India's Teacher Workforce



By Vimala Ramachandran,
Tara Béteille, Toby Linden,
Sangeeta Dey, Sangeeta
Goyal and Prerna Goel
Chatterjee

Available On-line

Published November 2017,
293 pages

English Version, Paperback
ISBN (paper): 978-1-4648-
0987-3

ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-0988-0

India's landmark Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009) guarantees education to all children aged 6-14 years. The Act mandates specific student-teacher ratios and emphasizes teacher quality. Writing this into legislation took seven years, but the seven years since has proven that ensuring effective teachers are recruited and placed in all schools in a time-bound manner is considerably more challenging.

This report takes a detailed look at the complexity of the teacher management landscape in elementary and secondary schools in nine Indian states. On a daily basis, the administrative machinery of these states has to manage between 19,000 to nearly a million teachers in different types of schools and employment contracts, and cope with recruiting thousands more and distributing them equitably across schools.

This report examines the following issues: official requirements for becoming a schoolteacher in India; policies and processes for teacher recruitment, deployment and transfers; salaries and benefits of teachers; professional growth of teachers; and grievance redress mechanisms for teachers. For the first time in India, this report compares and contrasts stated policy with actual practice in teacher management in the country, using a combination of primary and secondary data. In so doing, the report reveals the

hidden challenges and the nature of problems faced by administrators in attempting to build an effective teacher workforce which serves the needs of all of India's 200 million school children.

The report examines states with varying characteristics, thus generating knowledge and evidence likely to be of interest to policy makers and practitioners in a wide range of contexts.

India: Policy Research Working Papers

WPS 8244

Internal borders and migration in India

By Caglar Ozden, Zovanga Louis Kone, Aaditya Mattoo and et.al.

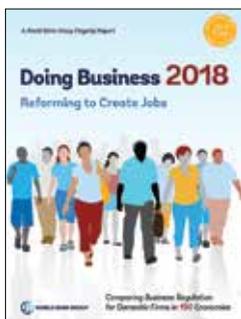
Internal mobility is a critical component of economic growth and development, as it enables the reallocation of labor to more productive opportunities across sectors and regions. Using detailed district-to-district migration data from the 2001 Census of India, the paper highlights the role of state borders as significant impediments to internal mobility.

The analysis finds that average migration between neighboring districts in the same state is at least 50 percent larger than neighboring districts on different sides of a state border, even after accounting for linguistic differences. Although the impact of state borders differs by education, age, and reason for migration, it is always large and significant.

The paper suggests that inter-state mobility is inhibited by state-level entitlement schemes, ranging from access to subsidized goods through the public distribution system to the bias for states' own residents in access to tertiary education and public sector employment.

Other Publications

Doing Business 2018: Reforming to Create Jobs

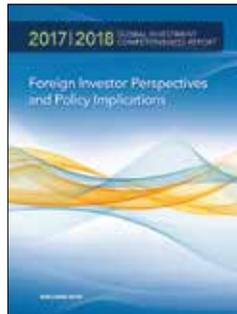


By World Bank
Available On-line
Published November 2017,
235 pages
English Version, Paperback
ISBN: 978-1-4648-1146-3
SKU: 211146

Doing Business illustrates how reforms in business regulations

are being used to analyze economic outcomes for domestic entrepreneurs and for the wider economy. It is a flagship product by the World Bank Group that garners worldwide attention on regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship.

Global Investment Competitiveness Report 2017/2018: Foreign Investor Perspectives and Policy Implications



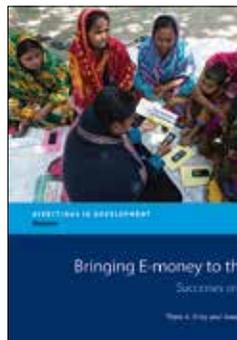
By World Bank Group
Available On-line
Published October 2017,
182 pages
English Version, Paperback
ISBN: 978-1-4648-1175-3
SKU: 211175

This inaugural issue of the *World Bank Group's Global Investment Competitiveness*

Report presents novel analytical insights and empirical evidence on foreign direct investment's (FDI) drivers and contributions to economic transformation.

The report's groundbreaking survey of more than 750 executives of multinational corporations investing in developing countries finds that—in addition to political stability, security, and macroeconomic conditions—a business-friendly legal and regulatory environment is the key driver of investment decisions.

Bringing E-money to the Poor: Successes and Failures



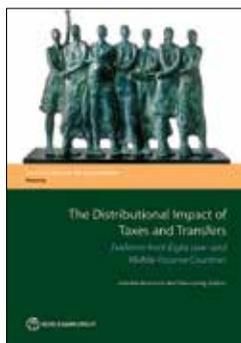
By Thyra A. Riley and Anoma Kulathunga
Available On-line
Published September 2017,
242 pages
English Version, Paperback
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0462-5
SKU: 210462

Moving toward universal access to financial services is within reach, thanks to

new technologies, transformative business models, and ambitious reforms. Instruments such as e-money accounts and mobile accounts, along with debit cards and low-cost traditional bank accounts, can significantly increase financial access for those who are excluded.

This book examines the lessons of success from four country case studies of "gazelles"—Kenya, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand—that leapt from limitation to innovation by successfully enabling the deployment of e-money technology. These countries have thereby transformed the landscape of financial access to their poor. In addition, two country case studies (Maldives and the Philippines) yield lessons learned from constraints that stalled e-money deployments. Because technology is not a silver bullet, the case studies also explore other strategic elements that need to be in place for a country to expand access to financial services through digital technology.

The Distributional Impact of Taxes and Transfers: Evidence from Eight Developing Countries



By Gabriela Inchauste and Nora Lustig
Available On-line
 Published September 2017,
 318 pages
English Version, Paperback
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-1091-6
 SKU: 211091

In addition to its impact on economic growth and macroeconomic stability,

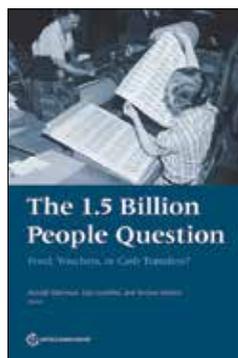
fiscal policy affects the distribution of income across households and individuals through the use of taxes and expenditures. As a result, policy makers and development partners are likely to be interested in the answers to, among others, the following questions: what is the combined impact of taxes and transfers on poverty and inequality; how progressive or regressive are different fiscal interventions, and what are their contributions to the overall impact; what is the distributive efficiency of the existing fiscal package; what is the distributional impact of a particular policy reform; and what are the characteristics of net payers into and net beneficiaries from the fiscal package?

The World Bank has partnered with the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) Institute at Tulane University to answer these questions using the Institute's comprehensive fiscal incidence diagnostic tool. This tool – the CEQ assessment is designed to assess how taxation and public expenditures affect the income of different households, individuals, and socioeconomic groups

as well as the distribution of income across the entire population.

This volume presents a set of studies for low- and middle-income countries that use the CEQ approach to examine the distributional effects of individual taxes, transfers, and subsidies as well as their combined impact.

The 1.5 Billion People Question: Food, Vouchers, or Cash Transfers?



By Harold Alderman, Ugo Gentilini, and Ruslan Yemtsov
Available On-line
 Published October 2017,
 338 pages
English Version, Paperback
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-1087-9
 SKU: 211087

Most of the people in low and middle-income countries covered by social

protection receive assistance in the form of in-kind food. The origin of such support is rooted in countries' historical pursuit of three interconnected objectives, namely attaining self-sufficiency in food, managing domestic food prices, and providing income support to the poor.

This volume sheds light on the complex, bumpy and non-linear process of how some flagship food-based social protection programs have evolved over time, and how they currently work.

India Project Documents

Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project

Date 30 October 2017
 Project ID P155617
 Report No. Project Agreement

Himachal Pradesh DPL Green Growth Project

Date 16 October 2017
 Project ID P124041
 Report No. ICRR0020256 (Implementation Completion Report Review)

Himachal Pradesh Forests for Prosperity Project

Date 21 November 2017

Project ID P163271
 Report No. PIDISDSC21563 (Project Information and Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program for Results Project

Date 01 December 2017
 Project ID P162849
 Report No. 122032 (Environmental Assessment)

First National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project

Date 01 October 2017
 Project ID P092217
 Report No. RES27861 (Project Paper)

Jharkhand Municipal Development Project

Date 17 November 2017
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Report No. SFG3803, SFG3844 (Resettlement Plan, 2 Vol.)
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