

National Seminar

**Addressing the Problems of Inter-State
and Inter-District Disparity of India**

Sponsored by the 15th Finance Commission of India

October 1, 2018, Patna



ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF INTER-STATE AND INTER-DISTRICT DISPARITY OF INDIA

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ADRI)

In India, the regional disparity has been a historical phenomenon. The inter-state and inter-district disparity with respect to major economic and social indicators have been stark and persistent. A large body of recent literature has shown that the economic reform has indeed accentuated the problem of both inter-state and inter-district dispersion, preventing “balanced regional growth” of the country.

To address the question of extreme backwardness of districts, the Government of India has appointed many committees and commissions since independence. These committees and commissions have always focused on identification of the criteria for backwardness and progressive fine-tuning of such criteria. As a result, various lists of the most backward districts came up from time to time, but they more or less featured the same districts, which shared the legacy of backwardness since colonial times. Historically, the states which are in the wrong side of the uneven growth are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and Assam. In fact, according to Niti Aayog, around 72

per cent of the extremely backward districts are concentrated in above mentioned states. Some of these districts are also affected by extremist violence. Once the backward districts were identified, the strategy adopted to address their backwardness was, by and large, centrally driven, based on schemes, programmes and projects that the planners thought would accelerate their development. Providing funds constituted the crucial element of this strategy, while capacity considerations were largely ignored. As a result, very little of these funds could be properly utilised and the goals of development remained unachieved.

One specific example of such strategies was the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), which was launched in 2007 as per recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission to redress regional imbalances in development. More specifically, its purpose was to bridge critical gaps in infrastructure and other developmental requirements that were not being adequately met through the existing inflows, and to strengthen the

local level governance institutions for capacity building, participatory planning and decision-making. The scheme failed to deliver for the same reasons as in the other schemes and was finally abandoned in 2014-15. In 2017, Niti Aayog came up with another list of 115 most backward districts of the country, based on a new set of parameters. As many as 97 of these districts were also the BRGF districts, indicating that the excessive focus placed on identifying the criteria for backwardness was perhaps misplaced, since a backward district will remain backward regardless of the criteria used.

Despite the attention and financial support provided to these backward states and districts since independence, they have, by and large, remained where they were at the time of independence. Since independence, significant strides have been made leading to development across many the districts in the country, but the districts which were most backward then still remain so. Their relative backwardness has not changed much over time. It is essential to devise and implement an appropriate strategy to lift these most backward districts to the level of others rapidly, perhaps within a decade, if the growing inequality in the country and its attendant problems like extremist violence etc. are to be addressed. For any strategy to work and deliver optimally, one must first try to identify the reasons why the previous strategies had failed to deliver or delivered sub-optimally.

Backwardness is a complex issue, the causes of which are not easy to identify; neither can it be addressed simplistically only by the use of funds. Addressing backwardness cannot be reduced to mere identification of a set of parameters and prescription of a formula as the previous initiatives had attempted to do. All these attempts lacked any systematic strategy to create infrastructural and institutional capacity to translate funds into investments and investments into growth.

Objectives

The main objective of the seminar is to address the developmental challenges of the most backward states and districts in the country. Specifically, among others, the deliberations in the seminar would include the following analytical issues:

- (a) Identification of the causes or determinants of backwardness in terms of natural resource endowments, infrastructural limitations, human resource deficiencies and other factors. The exercise will hopefully lead to a typology of the backward states and districts that would help the central/ state governments in identifying development strategies for different types of backwardness.
- (b) Analysis of the strategies that were employed earlier to reduce regional disparity – why those strategies did not succeed and what lesson can one drawn from those failed attempts. The critical analysis of inter-

state and intra-state dispersions of developmental outcome will contribute to the existing literature.

- (c) Identification of alternative strategies, approaches, schemes, and programmes for accelerating the development of the most backward states and districts, along with outlining the administrative mechanisms for implementation,

coordination, monitoring, and follow up of the alternative strategy of development.

- (d) Relative roles of the central/state governments in promoting development of most backward states and districts, with special reference to the role of Fifteenth Finance Commission.



Established in 1991, ADRI is now one of the most active social science research centres in Bihar. The name of the Institute attempts to reflect upon the long and integral relation Bihar has had with the rest of Asia. From the spread of Buddhism to the South, South-East and East Asia to the arrival of Sufism and other versions of Islam from the West Asia to Bihar, the state has been at the centre of major exchange of ideas. It is against this background that ADRI seeks to place itself in the context of Bihar in particular, and Asia in general. The genesis of ADRI can be traced to an economic and political milieu during the eighties, when a number of state-funded social science institutions were struggling to survive, following the weakening of the state itself. Together with the widening of development deficits and the emergence of neo-liberal regime, there was a growing demand for research support to various development agencies – national and

international, and governmental and non-governmental. All these have prompted experiments for alternative organisational frameworks for academic institutions, and the establishment of ADRI was one such attempt. It is indeed satisfying that, passing through a number of tribulations during the last quarter of a century, the Institute has finally acquired an academic recognition from both scholars and institutions across the country. The academic agenda of ADRI is informed by a holistic view of social sciences and its scholars attempt to understand social, economic and political dynamics within the cultural context. ADRI's objective is not only to bring development issues to the fore, but also to seek integration of 'generation of ideas' with 'implementation of ideas'. The Institute feels proud to acknowledge that its academic agenda includes responses to demands from individuals, state and other institutions.

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DISPARITY OF INDIA**

October 1, 2018

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ADRI)

930-1000	Registration
INAUGURAL SESSION	
1000-1010	Welcome Address Shaibal Gupta , Member Secretary, ADRI
1010-1030	Inaugural Address N. K. Singh , Hon'ble Chairman, 15th Finance Commission
1030-1050	Address by Guest of Honour Saryu Rai , Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Food and Supply Department, Jharkhand
1050-1110	Presidential Address Vijay Kumar Chaudhary , Hon'ble Speaker of Bihar Assembly
1110-1125	Outlining the objectives of the Seminar and vote of thanks Sujata Chaturvedi , IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Bihar
1125-1140	TEA

TECHNICAL SESSION I

Chairperson: **Prachi Mishra**

Managing Director and Chief India Economist, Goldman Sachs

1140-1200	Regional Disparities in India: A Moving Frontier Sanchita Bakshi , Researcher, International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague Arunish Chawla , Minister-Economic, Indian Embassy, Washington DC. Mihir Shah , Former Member of Planning Commission, India
1200-1220	Assessing Public Expenditure Efficiency in Indian States Ranjan Kumar Mohanty , Economist, NIPFP, New Delhi Bhanumurthy N R , Professor, NIPFP, New Delhi

1220-1240	Inter-state Disparity: An Assessment Barna Ganguli , Assistant Professor, CEPPF, ADRI Bakshi Amit Kumar Sinha , Assistant Professor, CEPPF, ADRI
1240-1300	Discussion
1300-1400	LUNCH

TECHNICAL SESSION II

Chairperson: **Ashmita Gupta**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Wageningen University

1400-1420	Disparities in Human Development in Maharashtra: A Block Level Profile Suryanarayana M H , Professor, IGIDR, Mumbai
1420-1440	Multidimensional Deprivation in India at Sub-National Level: Does Club Convergence Exist? Exploring NFHS (I-IV) Data Sushil Kr. Haldar , Professor, Jadavpur University, West Bengal Sulekha Hembram , M.Phil Scholar, Jadavpur University, West Bengal Suraj Das , PhD Research Scholar, Jadavpur University, West Bengal
1440-1500	Changing Socio-economic Inequalities in Child Nutrition in the Indian States Simantini Mukhopadhyay , Assistant Professor, IDSK, West Bengal Achin Chakraborty , Director, IDSK, West Bengal
1500-1520	Like Father, Like Son: Intergenerational Occupational Persistence among Youth in India Sweta Lahiri , Lecturer, Heritage College, Calcutta Tushar K. Nandi , Assistant Professor, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta
1520-1545	Discussion
1545-1600	TEA

TECHNICAL SESSION III

Chairperson: **Prabhat P Ghosh**

Director, ADRI

1600-1620	<p>Optimal Allocation of Funds to Sub-National and Sub-State Levels: A Suggested Methodology</p> <p>Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Professor, Jadavpur University, West Bengal</p> <p>Poulomi Roy, Assistant Professor, Jadavpur University, West Bengal</p>
1620-1640	<p>The Globalisation and Sources of Regional Income Growth Disparity in the Emerging Countries</p> <p>Jagannath Mallick, IGNOU, New Delhi</p> <p>Atsushi Fukumi, University of Hyogo, Japan</p>
1640-1700	<p>Dynamic of Economic Growth and Regional Disparity in India in the Era of Reform</p> <p>Atreyee Pal, Assistant Professor, University of Kalyani, West Bengal</p> <p>Sankar Kumar Bhaumik, Professor, Central University of South Bihar</p>
1700-1720	<p>Intergovernmental Transfers: Instrument for Addressing Interstate Disparities or meeting Political Objectives</p> <p>Masroor Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Central University of Kashmir</p>
1720-1740	<p>Are Infrastructural Gaps Responsible for Imbalance in Industrial Credit Flow to States?</p> <p>Abhijit Sinha, Assistant Professor, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal</p> <p>Dipak Kundu, Assistant Professor, Kazi Nazrul Islam Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal</p>
1740-1810	<p>Discussion</p>
1810-1815	<p>Conclusion</p>

ABSTRACT

Regional Disparities in India: A Moving Frontier

Sanchita Bakshi, Researcher, International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

Arunish Chawla, Minister-Economic, Indian Embassy, Washington DC

Mihir Shah, Former Member of erstwhile Planning Commission, India

Among the multiple axis of inequality in India, inter-regional disparities have recently acquired greater salience, with demands being made for special status for certain states on this basis. What has been overlooked is that backwardness is a moving frontier with the most intense forms of poverty and deprivation getting increasingly concentrated within enclaves of backwardness, especially those inhabited by Adivasi communities. This paper attempts to capture the dynamics of backwardness in India using sub-district level data from Census 2011.

Assessing Public Expenditure Efficiency in Indian States

Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Economist, NIPFP, New Delhi

Bhanumurthy N R, Professor, NIPFP, New Delhi

In recent times, the issue of public expenditure efficiency has drawn the attention of both policymakers and researchers globally. Even in India, with the increased demands for Outcome-based Budgeting, the assessment of public expenditure efficiency becomes much more crucial. Towards this direction, by using outlays-outcome framework, the paper attempts to measure the efficiency of government expenditures on Social Sector, especially health and education, among the Indian States using various DEA approaches. Further, the paper also attempts to understand what drives the public expenditure efficiency among the States. For this, it looks at the role of economic growth as well as quality of governance. The results of input-oriented and output-oriented DEA approach finds a large variation in the efficiency of public spending as well as scope for resource saving among Indian States. The results suggest that States are spending their resources more efficiently on education than on health and overall social sector spending. Further, it also finds that both quality of governance and economic growth affects the efficiency of education, health, and social sector with governance to have larger effect compared to growth. Overall, the study suggests that focus on good governance could yield better outcomes from public spending.

Inter-state Disparity: An Assessment

Barna Ganguli, Assistant Professor, CEPPF, ADRI

Bakshi Amit Kumar Sinha, Assistant Professor, CEPPF, ADRI

India is a large federal nation and there exists widespread socio-economic disparities between the states of India. Wide regional imbalances might be existing on account of unequal distribution of natural resources or man-made, particularly when some regions have been preferred over others for capital investment and providing other infrastructure. Such regional imbalances have been a major concern for policy-makers and planners. India's five-year plans have been addressing the problem of inter-state disparities with an aim to develop the backward regions of the country. States like Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are today much more advanced on almost all indicators compared to their backward counterparts like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. This study attempts to examine the basic reasons behind inter-state disparities, based on five different dimensions – economic, fiscal, infrastructural, social and political. Time-series data will be used to assess the disparity which is a social stigma and must be nipped in the bud if sustained economic growth is to be realized.

Disparities in Human Development in Maharashtra: A Block Level Profile

Suryanarayana MH, Professor, IGIDR, Mumbai

The development experience of Maharashtra is a tale of diversity, regional imbalances and paradoxes. The state is quite diverse in terms of distribution of resource endowments, institutional features and economic prosperity. It is virtually the richest state in terms of per capita state SDP and the poorest in terms of incidence of poverty. It is one of the fastest growing states experiencing slowest reduction in incidence of poverty. Most of the studies till date, the human development reports in particular, have focused on state-and at best district-level profiles of economic growth and human development parameters. Possibly for the first time an attempt has been made to provide a block level profile by conducting National Sample Surveys of household consumer expenditure and other human development dimensions for the 356 blocks of Maharashtra. This study makes use of the preliminary estimates obtained from the survey conducted during 2015-16 in the state of Maharashtra for the Block Level HDR of Maharashtra; it illustrates measures and estimates of the critical human development dimension parameters at the block level.

Multidimensional Deprivation in India at Sub-National Level: Does Club Convergence Exist? Exploring NFHS (I-IV) Data

Sushil Kr. Haldar, Professor, Jadavpur University, West Bengal

Sulekha Hembram, MPhil Scholar, Jadavpur University, West Bengal

Suraj Das, PhD Scholar, Jadavpur University, West Bengal

Keeping in mind the limitations of income poverty, a new measure of multidimensional human deprivation (MHD) across 24 states (at 4 time points corresponding to NFHS 1, 2, 3 and 4) is suggested. This MHD takes into account the problem of weights of the indicators used in measuring the multidimensional poverty by UNDP. It is observed that the result of MHD across States in India is found to be consistent with Human Poverty Index (HPI) and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) introduced by UNDP in 1997 and 2010 respectively. Though most of the States in India have been experiencing a decline of the incidence of MHD (and its components) but the pace of decline varies to a large extent; as a result the inequality in respect of MHD (and its components) over time is found to be rising. The distributional dynamics of MHD are captured by Generalized Entropy, Stochastic Kernel density and Markov process. It is observed the presence of 'Club Convergence' in respect of MHD; the present study empirically re-establishes the hypothesis of 'low-level human development trap' that is observed among five States like Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan and Orissa. The underlying factors of differential MHD are explored using dynamic panel data regression model; results show that lagged MHD, human capital investment along with their infrastructure availability play a significant role; road and rail connectivity also appear significant. This analysis can be extended at the disaggregate level viz. district level using District Level Household Survey (DLHS) data. The present study is expected to have some policy relevance towards identification and eradication of mass human deprivation from backward States (or Districts) in India.

Changing Socio-economic Inequalities in Child Nutrition in Indian States

Simantini Mukhopadhyay, Assistant Professor, IDSK, West Bengal

Achin Chakraborty, Director, IDSK, West Bengal

We find that the modest improvement in child under nutrition in the ten years between the last two rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has been skewed against children in the poorest households. There is no evidence of convergence in the nutritional achievements of children across the states of India, which is due to the fact that the backward states with high average levels of under nutrition have also witnessed a rise in socioeconomic inequalities in child nutrition. We use different indicators, ranging from the

simple relative rate of decline in the bottom wealth quintile vis-à-vis the mean to the more sophisticated measures such as the extended concentration index to measure socioeconomic inequalities. While mapping the performance of states in reducing stunting inequalities to the economic indicators, we find that there is no generalisable pattern. Gujarat, which has had the second highest growth rate in per capita net state domestic product, has witnessed a rise in inequality in child stunting by all measures. At the other extreme, Uttarakhand, which has had the highest growth rate in PCNSDP and the second highest rate of poverty reduction, has also been successful in reducing wealth inequality in stunting, irrespective of the measure chosen.

Like Father, Like Son: Intergenerational Occupational Persistence among Youth in India

Sweta Lahiri, Lecturer, Heritage College, Kolkata

Tushar K. Nandi, Assistant Professor, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata

This paper analyses the intergenerational persistence of occupation among youth in India. Using data from the latest three rounds of the employment-unemployment survey of NSSO, this paper studies the same industry employment of father and son in recent years. We provide an analysis of intergenerational occupational persistence across states and districts within states to identify the heterogeneity in persistence. It also allows us to identify areas that need policy focus in terms of youth employment. We use a probit model for estimating the effect of own, parental education, asset ownership and father's network on persistence. The results show that in both urban and rural areas, education is negatively associated occupational persistence across generations. There exists positive effect of household productive asset ownership on persistence. We also find evidence of significant influence of father's network on such incidence. There is indication that difference across castes and religions has been declining in recent years.

Optimal Allocation of Funds to Sub-National and Sub-State Levels: A Suggested Methodology

Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Professor, Jadavpur University, West Bengal

Poulomi Roy, Assistant Professor, Jadavpur University, West Bengal

This paper aims at focusing on the rules followed by different finance commissions in devolution of taxes to states. Successive finance commissions have primarily stressed population as the criterion (with some deviations from that in 12th and 13th finance

commissions). Unfortunately, no finance commission has given due cognizance of the fact that inter-state equalisation of standard of living depends not only on granting more funds to states which have more population but also on subjective attitudes of that population in different states towards growth and inequality. This really means devolution cannot be based on any static concept but must have a dynamic angle. This leads to the issue that unless the devolution rule is based on the concept of inclusive growth, inter as well intra state equalisation of per capita real income will elude the efforts of policy planners. The present paper is an effort to highlight these issues in an analytical framework. The fund devolution of finance commissions suffers from the shortcomings mentioned above since they are not asked in their ToRs to firmly root their distributive mechanism on analytically defensible grounds. There are several issues which need to be explicitly modelled- (i) Transfer of funds (either horizontally or vertically) must ensure equity in a sustainable sense, so that the dynamics of growth of per capita real income must be brought into focus (ii) Definition of equity must be nested in the traditional sense which is used in economics literature and (iii) Optimality of such transfer must be clarified in terms of an expression which ensure both equity along with growth. The paper highlights the complementarity of private and public capital and defines a concept of 'development gap' in terms of optimal public capital needed to push poorer states out of possible low level traps. It also highlights several subjective parameters of the population which shape the dynamics of inclusive growth in a state. The modelling part of the paper has explicitly addressed these issues.

The Globalisation and Sources of Regional Income Growth Disparity in the Emerging Countries

Jagannath Mallick, IGNOU, New Delhi

Atsushi Fukumi, University of Hyogo, Japan

The paper contributes to the debate on globalization and regional disparities in economic growth in India and the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the two largest emerging countries. The study is new in decomposing regional per capita income growth based on Solow's growth accounting approach and also in estimating the direct and indirect effects of globalization on regional growth. The paper uses the dynamic panel Spatial Autoregressive Model (SAR) and Spatial Durbin Model (SDM) for the empirical analysis. The analysis draws the following five important results. First, growth accounting approach suggests that the source of high regional inequality is due to disparities in total factor productivity growth in the PRC, and this and capital intensity are the regional imbalances sources in India. Second, the globalization represented by FDI is found to be significant in

regional per capita income growth in both the countries, while its neighbourhood effect is positive in the PRC only. Third, the income growth in neighbouring regions influences that of a given region positively in both countries. Fourth, the brain drain effect of the human capital is found in both the countries due to the migration of educated people. Fifth, as the indirect effects of globalization the FDI affects the domestic capital formation positively in the regions in India and human capital in the PRC. The study suggests that the policy-makers should consider the role of globalization and neighbourhood relationship in addition to human capital and physical investment for designing policies to reduce income disparities in these two countries.

Dynamic of Economic Growth and Regional Disparity in India in the Era of Reform

Atreyee Pal, Assistant Professor, University of Kalyani, West Bengal

Sankar Kumar Bhaumik, Professor, Central University of South Bihar, Gaya

The Indian economy in the post-reforms period has witnessed a spectacular rise in its growth rate and has taken a stride to emerge as one of the fastest growing economies across the globe. While the growth process has been primarily driven by its services sector, the other two sectors, especially agriculture, have lagged behind. However, given that concerns lie regarding the future viability of this services-led growth process, coherent policies targeting development of all sectors through inter-sectoral linkage is urgently required. In addition, the growth success that is stigmatized as the market-based economic growth has accelerated various forms of inequalities. Given that rising regional inequality has been a major source of concern in present, state intervention is required to inculcate inclusiveness in true sense in the growth process. Some recommendations of the recent finance commissions pose serious concern in this regard, and there is a need to seriously debating how a balance between the Principles of Equity and Principles of Federalism could be struck so as to arrest the ever-rising trends of regional inequality.

Intergovernmental Transfers: Instrument for Addressing Interstate Disparities or meeting Political Objectives

Masroor Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Central University of Kashmir, Sri Nagar

Like many other countries, intergovernmental transfers are a dominant source of finances for sub national (state) governments and it continues to be so because of continuous change in functional responsibilities of various levels of government on one hand and changing tax structure on other hand. These intergovernmental resources besides being

an instrument for correcting the vertical fiscal imbalances also aim to address the horizontal imbalances that might originate from differential resource endowments or revenue potential of different regions. As such, if divided among the states on the basis of some rationally crafted criteria, these transfers can play a major role in addressing inter-state inequalities. Since the interstate disparity continues to be a grim problem with India despite these transfers, it had motivated us to empirically examine the determinants of such transfers which otherwise are meant to address the horizontal inequalities. More specifically we have tried to examine whether these transfers are heavily biased towards the economically weaker states or there is some political manoeuvring that defeats the very purpose of such transfers. Using panel data analysis study reveals that central funds are motivated more by political considerations thereby defeating the very purpose of such transfers. Study ends with policy suggestions so as to mitigate the political manoeuvring of such transfers and use them to address the problem of inter-state disparity.

Are Infrastructural Gaps Responsible for Imbalance in Industrial Credit Flow to States?

Abhijit Sinha, Assistant Professor, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal

Dipak Kundu, Assistant Professor, Kazi Nazrul Islam Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal

The empirical research analyses the flow of industrial credit from scheduled commercial banks to the different states (regions) of the country. The study is based on an analysis of data for twenty six states for the period 2004-05 to 2014-15 (the latest data as per NITI Aayog website). The main focus of this research is to try to find out the extent of imbalance in the flow of credit and also to test whether infrastructural factors are responsible for attracting industrial credit to the regions of the country. The computations show a wide disparity as depicted by the Gini coefficient values. In respect of the panel regression results, the fixed effect model shows the importance of road and power infrastructure along with the contribution of industry in a states' gross domestic product.

SPEAKERS



Abhijit Sinha is an Assistant Professor in Commerce at Vidyasagar University, West Bengal and has been teaching for more than 12 years at the post-graduate level. He is a Post-graduate in Commerce and also an MBA. He secured the first position in his MCom examinations and is a Silver-medallist in his MBA. He has authored two books, edited two other, completed one UGC - sponsored project, written around 45 articles and presented more than 50 papers at national and international conferences. He has interest in financial services, corporate finance and social issues. He also supervises PhD and MPhil candidates. He was the Executive Editor of Vidyasagar University Journal of Commerce and the Desk Editor of Business Spectrum. He is also an NSS officer at the university and an active member of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Programme of the university.



Ajitava Raychaudhuri is a PhD from American University (USA) and is

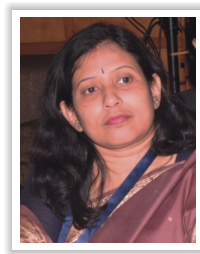
Professor, former Head and former Coordinator of Centre for Advanced Studies at the Department of Economics, Jadavpur University. He was a senior Fulbright Scholar at Economic Growth Center, Yale University and Reid Hall Scholar in Residence of Columbia University, Paris Campus. Among his notable books are India's Exports: An Analytical Study (with Sugata Marjit) and International Trade in Services in India: Implications for Growth and Inequality in a Globalising World (with Prabir De). His latest book (co-edited with Prabir De) is Myanmar's Integration with the world: Challenges and policy options.



Atreyee Pal is an Assistant Professor in Economics at the Department of Commerce, University of Kalyani, West Bengal. She is a gold-medallist from the University of Calcutta and has about ten years of teaching experience. She has been into post-graduate teaching since last three years. Her fields of specialization include Indian Growth and Employment Analysis, Women Empowerment and Econometrics. She has five publications in refereed journals and edited books. She also supervises PhD and MPhil candidates.



Bakshi Amit Kumar Sinha is a faculty member at Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance (CEPPF), ADRI. His doctoral thesis was titled 'Human Development and Expenditure on Social Sector in Bihar'. He works on fiscal federalism, resource mobilisation, expenditure management, regional inequality, human development and gender disparities. He has helped the Government of Bihar in preparing many policy documents including the documents on Gender Budget, Child Budget, Outcome Budget, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Vision Document, Medium-Term Fiscal Plans (MTFP) under the FRBM Act. He has also been helping with the preparation of annual Economic Survey of Bihar since 2007 and has actively helped in preparing the Memoranda to the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and now Fifteenth Finance Commissions by the Government of Bihar among other projects. Dr. Sinha has numerous publications on issues in public finance, human development, agriculture and social sector. Presently he is engaged in preparing the study on Evaluation of State Finance of Bihar.



Barna Ganguli is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance (CEPPF), Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), Patna. She has been engaged in the field of research and education in Social Sciences for nearly a decade. Her area of interest is human development, gender issues, urbanisation, environmental Topics, Rural Economy and other Social Issues. She has the experience of working for various evaluation and research projects in Bihar, including the yearly published Economic Survey of Bihar, State Finance Commission Reports and other projects of the concerned departments. She has also been engaged in analysis of the data and preparation of draft reports of state like Sustainable Development Goals, Comments on Labour Code on Social Security, Evaluation study of State Finances, Gender and Child Budget etc. She has written on various issues like MGNREGA, Climate Change, Food Security, Rural Tourism, Education and Health, Interventions for SC/ST , Gender disparity etc. Presently she is engaged in preparation of Memorandum of 15th Finance Commission for the Government of Bihar.

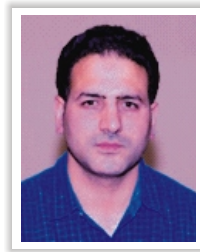


Dipak Kundu is an Assistant Professor in Commerce at Kazi Nazrul Islam Mahavidyalaya, Paschim Burdwan, West Bengal. He has experience in teaching at the school level and has now been teaching at the under-graduate level for the last three years. His 40% visual disability has not dissuaded him from pursuing his PhD at the Department of Commerce, Vidyasagar University. He has also published in journals.



Jagannath Mallick is currently associated with the Department of Economics, IGNOU, New Delhi. He was a visiting fellow at the University of Hyogo in Japan. He has worked at the University of Pardubice (Czech Republic), Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) and Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He has about nine years of research experience in the field of macroeconomics, global economic growth & development, and regional disparity, covering a wide range of issues

mainly in the context of emerging economies. He has published in standard national and international journals, including the Annals of Regional Science and Singapore Economic Review, etc. and has presented papers at prestigious international conferences in USA, Japan, Germany, Italy, Russia and Czech Republic. As professional recognition of his research, he has received several prestigious national and international awards.



Masroor Ahmad is an Assistant Professor in Economics at Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar. Earlier, he has worked as an Assistant Director with the planning and monitoring department of Jammu and Kashmir government. He was an ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow and has published five papers in journals. His research interests include Public Finance, with special focus on inter-governmental transfers.



N R Bhanumurthy is a Professor at NIPFP, New Delhi. Prior to this, he was an

Assistant Professor and then an Associate Professor at Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. His research areas include macro-monetary economics, fiscal policy, international money & finance, macroeconomic modelling and development economics. He has authored nearly 70 research papers and five books. He had brief stints at UNESCAP, Bangkok and at UNDP-RCC in Colombo as a Macro economist. He was a Visiting Fellow at MSH, Paris, and at McGill University, Montreal. He has been a consultant to UN-DESA (New York), UN-ESCWA (Beirut), UNDP-Nepal, UNDP-Bhutan, UNESCAP-SSWA (New Delhi), ILO, the World Bank, and Asian Development Bank. He has served on 15 government committees constituted by MoF, MoSPI, National Statistical Commission, and the erstwhile Planning Commission of India. Bhanumurthy has been the Secretary of the Indian Econometric Society since 2006 and also a Managing Trustee of Indian Economic Association Trust for Research and Development since 2010. He has received two prestigious awards: Mahalanobis Memorial Medal (National) Award for the year 2014 for his outstanding contributions to the field of quantitative economics in India, and Prof VKRV Rao Award for Social Sciences (Economics) for the year 2015 from ICSSR and ISEC Bengaluru.



Sanchita Bakshi is a PhD researcher at the International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague. Previously, she worked with Samaj Pragati Sahayog, one of India's largest grass-roots initiatives for water and livelihood security. She has also worked with the erstwhile Planning Commission of India, engaging in research and policy related to water, rural development and panchayatiraj institutions. Sanchita is an MPhil in Development Studies from St. Antony's College, University of Oxford. She holds a Master's from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and has an undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of Delhi. Her research interests include exclusion, disempowerment and deprivation in India and ways in which people-centric, inclusive and sustainable development can be fostered for those currently excluded from the mainstream development process.



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