



नीति आयोग  
NITI AAYOG



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## CHILD MARRIAGE

1. Sanjay Kumar

[Trends, differentials and determinants of child marriage in India: Evidences from large-scale surveys.](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 55(6), 2020 (8th February):53-58

Despite the law to prevent child marriage, the practice remains unabated in the country due to deep-rooted social and cultural norms. The cohort analysis of data from the National Family Health Surveys suggests that the prevalence of child marriage was around 58% during the decades of 1970s and 1980s, and it started declining, albeit at a slower pace, reached to 46% by 2000. The first decade of the 21st century witnessed faster decline with 21% of the girls aged 18-23 years marrying below 18 years of age, as per the estimates for the most recent reference period. The assessments of the governments conditional cash transfer scheme to enhance value of the girl child seem to have influenced the attitudes of the parents, rather eliminating child marriage. The governments cash transfer schemes needs revamping and is recommended to be routed through the educational system in the form of fellowships for higher studies and, in particular, vocational studies of the girls, rather than disbursing cash incentives to the family of the beneficiary girl.

\*\* CHILD MARRIAGE

## ECONOMICS

2. Mundle, Sudipto and Sikdar, Satadru

[Subsidies, Merit Goods and the Fiscal Space for Reviving Growth.](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 55(5), 2020(1st February): 52-60

The incidence of implicit and explicit budget subsidies provided by the central and state governments has declined from about 12.9% of the gross domestic product in 1987-88 to 10.3% at present, with the bulk of these subsidies being provided by the states and about half being spent on non-merit subsidies. This paper argues that rationalising non-

merit subsidies is one of several deep fiscal reform measures that could together free up massive fiscal space that can be used to finance an inclusive growth revival strategy.

\*\* ECONOMICS.

## EDUCATION

### 3. Bhaskar, Natasha Jha

#### **Global synergy in higher education.**

YOJANA, 64(2), 2020(February): 47-49

India enjoys a demographic dividend where population of its working class is larger than its non-working population. It is world's youngest country with an average age of 29. This comes at a time, when rest of the world is ageing. The outflow of Indian students for education abroad is more than 15 times the inflow of international students of India. Its draft National Education Policy, 2019 proposes to invite the top 200 global universities to establish foreign branch campuses in India.

\*\* EDUCATION.

### 4. **Key initiatives in education.**

YOJANA, 64(2), 2020(February): 35-37

The government of India initiated the process of formulating a New Education Policy. It aims to meet the changing dynamics of the requirements of the population with regard to quality education, innovation and research to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge. Also to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. Dr. K Kasturirangan Committee has submitted the Draft National Education Policy. .

\*\* EDUCATION.

## ENVIRONMENT

5. Blakeslee, David, Ram Fishman, and Veena Srinivasa

**Way down in the hole: Adaptation to long-term water loss in rural India.**

AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 110(1), 2020(January): 200-224

Worsening environmental conditions threaten to undermine progress in reducing rural poverty. Little is known, however, about the prospects for farmer adaptations to mitigate this threat, in particular through opportunities for income diversification presented by recent non- agricultural growth. We study the effects of increasing water scarcity in India using quasi-random, geologically determined differences in access to groundwater. The drying up of wells results in a precipitous and persistent decline in farm income and wealth, with little evidence of agricultural adaptation. However, labor reallocation to off-farm employment appears successful in maintaining overall income, particularly in locations with a more developed manufacturing sector.

\*\* ENVIRONMENT.

## HEALTH

6. Kulkarni, Purushottam M

**Stagnancy in the unmet need for family planning in India.**

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 55(6), 2020 (8th February): 65-70

Though addressing the unmet need for contraception was one of the immediate objectives of India's National Population Policy 2000, the available evidence shows that there has been stagnancy in the level of the unmet need for family planning for quite some time. Data from the fourth round of the National Family Health Survey carried out during 2015-16 show that about 13% of couples of reproductive ages wanted to stop childbearing or delay the next birth but did not get the contraceptive services they desired to have. Trends in the level and nature of the unmet need for contraception, whether for spacing or limiting, are examined here on the basis of the data from the series of NFHS rounds. Further, socio-economic and regional differentials

in the unmet need have been assessed. It is seen that while socio-economic differentials in the unmet need exist but are not large, there are notable interstate differences, and some states have a high unmet need. Besides, the unmet need has risen in a few states in the recent years. The paper also provides estimates of implications of the unmet need in terms of unwanted births and fertility.

\*\* HEALTH .

7. Rajpal, Sunil, Kim, Rockli, Rajan Sankar, Alok K

[Frequently asked questions on child anthropometric failures in India.](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 55(6), 2020(8th February): 59-64

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The National Family Health Survey is analysed to develop critical insights on child anthropometric failure in India. The analysis finds non-response of economic growth on nutritional well-being and greater burden among the poor as two fundamental concerns. This calls for strengthening developmental finance for socio-economic upliftment as well as enhanced programmatic support for nutritional interventions. The gaps in analytical inputs for programmatic purposes also deserves attention to unravel intricacies that otherwise remain obscured through customary enquiries. On the one hand, this may serve well to improve policy targeting, and on the other, this can help comprehend the nature and reasons of heterogeneities and inequities in nutritional outcomes across subgroups. Strengthening the analytical capacities of programme managers and health functionaries is recommended.

\*\* HEALTH

8. Grennan, Matthew and Robert J. Town

[Regulating innovation with uncertain quality: information, risk, and access in medical devices.](#)

AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 110(1), 2020(January): 120-161

We study the impact of regulating product entry and quality information requirements on oligopoly equilibrium and consumer welfare. Product testing can reduce consumer uncertainty, but also increase entry costs and delay entry. Using variation between EU and US medical device regulations, we document patterns consistent with valuable learning from more stringent US requirements. To derive welfare implications, we pair the data with a model of supply, demand, and testing regulation. US policy is indistinguishable from the policy that maximizes total surplus in our estimated model, while the European Union could benefit from more testing. "Post-market surveillance" could further increase surplus.

\*\* HEALTH.

## EMPLOYMENT

### 9. Bhuyan, Ratna

#### **Employment opportunities in rural homestays.**

YOJANA, 64(2), 2020(February): 50-53

Development of rural tourism can enhance economic empowerment and employment generation of rural communities through sustainable livelihoods. As the showcase of rural life, art, culture, food, customs and heritage, rural homestays can provide direct benefits to the local communities or stakeholders, both economically and socially. It also enables interaction between tourists and local population for a mutually enriching experience. This article studies the potential of rural homestays and the various initiatives and policies by the government at the Central and State level to enhance this tourism potential in North East India for sustainable rural development. .

\*\* EMPLOYMENT.

### 10. Jakhar, Vikas

#### **Skill development and entrepreneurship among youth and women.**

KURUKSHETRA, 68(4), 2020(February ): 22-26

Given the realities of rapidly changing economic landscape in the country, entrepreneurship opportunities have emerged as an important source of meeting the aspirations of the youth an all-inclusive approach to strengthen the entrepreneurship

development scenario in the country which is competent, quality conscious, market savvy, innovative and has globally competitive entrepreneurs, needs to be carefully mentored and encouraged. .

\*\* EMPLOYMENT.

**11.** Guvenen, Fatih, Burhan Kuruscu, Satoshi Tanaka, an

**Multidimensional skill mismatch.**

AMERICAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL: MACROECONOMICS, 12 (1), 2020  
(January): 210-244

What determines the earnings of a worker relative to his peers in the same occupation? What makes a worker fail in one occupation but succeed in another? More broadly, what are the factors that determine the productivity of a worker-occupation match? To help answer questions like these, we propose an empirical measure of multidimensional skill mismatch that is based on the discrepancy between the portfolio of skills required by an occupation and the portfolio of abilities possessed by a worker for learning those skills. This measure arises naturally in a dynamic model of occupational choice and human capital accumulation with multidimensional skills and Bayesian learning about one's ability to learn skills. Not only does mismatch depress wage growth in the current occupation, it also leaves a scarring effect-by stunting skill acquisition-that reduces wages in future occupations. Mismatch also predicts different aspects of occupational switching behavior. We construct the empirical analog of our skill mismatch measure from readily available US panel data on individuals and occupations and find empirical support for these implications. The magnitudes of these effects are large: moving from the worst- to the best-matched decile can improve wages by 11 percent per year for the rest of one's career.

\*\* EMPLOMENT.



## WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

12. Goli, Srinivas, Rana, MD Juel and Gouda, Jitendr

[Effects on maternity care and pregnancy outcomes in India: Intimate partner violence.](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 55(6), 2020 (8th February): 71-76

Unless India acts on all important causes, including intimate partner violence, that are hindering improvements in reproductive, maternal, and child health outcomes, the sustainable development goals related to health will remain difficult to achieve. Using the Health Survey 2015-16, it is found that intimate partner violence has adverse impacts on the pregnancy outcomes, maternal and new-borns health, and related healthcare access.

\*\* WOMEN DEVELOPMENT.

13. Baruah, Sriparna B

[Women entrepreneurs in India: opportunities and challenges.](#)

KURUKSHETRA, 68(4), 2020(February): 31-34

Globally, business world has realized and is working on war footing to create entrepreneurship as the final remedy to overcome all types of business and market challenges. Women are willing to take up business and contribute to the nation's growth. Their role is being reconised and steps are taken to promote women entrepreneurship. Resurgence of entrepreneurship is the need of the hour. Women entrepreneurs must be moulded properly with entrepreneurial traits and skill to meet changing global markets, and also be competent enough to sustain and strive in the local economic arena. .

\*\* WOMEN DEVELOPMENT