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RESEARCH INFORMATION SERIES: 3
ICSSR-NASSDOC, NEW DELHI

FOREWORD

Current Contents is a Current Awareness Service under “**NASSDOC Research Information Series 3**”. It provides ready access to bibliographic details of articles from the recently published leading scholarly journals in social sciences and available in NASSDOC. In this publication, the “**Table of Contents**” of selected journals are arranged under the title of the journal.

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Director (Documentation)
NASSDOC, ICSSR

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Economic Political Weekly

Vol.57 No.14, 02 April 2022

APRIL 2, 2022 | VOL LVII NO 14

India's Nuclear Doctrine

10 It is essential for India to examine the robustness of its nuclear strategy and, particularly, the no-first-use policy. — *Jawahar Bhagwat*

A Methodological Rectification in the Global Hunger Index

14 This article proposes a methodological correction to the original Global Hunger Index to improve its validity as a tool to measure hunger in a country. — *Hariprasad T, Dennis Robert & Anish T S*

The NITI Aayog Multidimensional Poverty Index

17 The explicit limitation of the multidimensional poverty index curated by the NITI Aayog is its lack of comparability across the spectrum of human development within India. — *Sanjay K Mohanty, U S Mishra & K D Maiti*

Regional Lockdown Policies and COVID-19 Transmission in India

21 Do lockdowns and mobility restrictions contain the spread of COVID-19? Findings from this article suggest that lockdown policies slowed COVID-19 death rates in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. — *Aarushi Kalra, Paul Novosad*

Manipur and the ADCs Bill, 2021

25 The conflict about the proposed Manipur (Hill Areas) Autonomous District Councils Bill is a manifestation of the deep divide between the hills and the valley. — *Thongkhohal Haokip*

Political Reservation for OBCs

28 The responses of the ruling state government and the opposition in Maharashtra to the retention of the OBC reservation in the local self-governments are explored and analysed in this article. — *Yashwant Zagade*

Language, Purity, and the Logic of Democracy

38 Working towards building a chauvinism-free model of democracy that is equally available to all its citizens involves ensuring the freedom of critical discourse to question the proto-hegemonic narrative associated with every primordial (religious or linguistic) affiliation. — *Probal Dasgupta*

COVID-19 and the Formal Sector Crisis in IT and ITes

43 This paper draws upon media reports, a short online survey, and telephonic interviews to highlight the working conditions in the information technology and information technology-enabled services sector. — *Smriti Singh*

Supply-side Problems in Food Loss and Waste

51 The food systems approach proposes reducing food loss and waste as a potential solution to achieve food and nutritional security. One-sixth of the agricultural production, accounting for one-tenth of the gross value added in agriculture, is lost. An efficient cold chain can reduce these losses substantially. — *Chandra S R Nuthalapati, S Mahendra Dev & Rajeev Sharma*

Climate Change and the Miyawaki Forests

62 The Miyawaki method is a path-breaking initiative in the recreation of forests in India, particularly in the context of climate change and environment conservation. A judicious conservation policy is the need of the hour as conservation initiatives are affecting people's lives and livelihoods. — *Anju Lis Kurian, C Vinodan*

Postscript

71 *Partha S Ghosh* on Bani Singh's documentary film *Taangh*; *Mrinmoy Pramanick* on the cultural narratives of Calcutta as codified through cinema and literature; *Anirudh Raghavan's* poem "Two Glasses"; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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Economic & Political Weekly

Vol.57 No.15, 09 April 2022

ILDSR NAGDUDU*

Subscribed

Date 29/04/2022

APRIL 9, 2022 | VOL LVII NO 15

Jharkhand's Sarna Code Bill and the Possible Fallout

To overcome the challenge of the plurality of Adivasi religions and discourse, community leaders would require to create a consensus based on grounded realities. — *Sujit Kumar*

Managing India's Pasts

The lack of clarity and transparency in the impending restructuring of organisations like the Films Division of India and the National Film Archive of India disenfranchises the real stakeholders of India's film heritage—the Indian public. — *Ritika Kaushik*

Re-envisioning the Purpose and Delivery of Higher Education

The Union Budget 2022–23 proposes a step forward towards the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 by invoking the increased use of information and communications technology as a policy instrument. — *Saumen Chattopadhyay*

COVID-19 to Lockdown (Mis)-management

The crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic has been effectuated due to the authoritativeness of the state that has used its powers without paying heed to the decentralisation of powers, devolution of duties, and building of community resilience. — *Gaurika Chugh*

NEP 2020 and the Discontinuation of the MPhil Degree

This article attempts to understand the perspective behind the move in the National Education Policy 2020 to discontinue the MPhil programme. — *Anil S Sutar*

Understanding Sikh Museums in Contemporary India

A study of Sikh museums is valuable in understanding the museum as an institution and its influence on the heritage politics of contemporary India. — *Kanika Singh*

Once Upon a Time Was Karnad

This article attempts to study Girish Karnad's *Ondanondu Kaladalli* (1979) by highlighting its richly layered representation of Indian martial arts, historical perspective of peasant mercenaries, and non-Kshatriya heroism. — *Sreeram Gopalkrishnan*

The Changing Face of New Towns in India

Socio-spatial equity has been at the core of the new town experiment during its origin in the Garden City movement. However, the Indian new town has undergone major changes towards a more exclusive private enclave. — *Aparna Vedula*

Emerging Pattern and Trend of Migration in Megacities

Based on analysing the census figures from 2001 to 2011 and the National Sample Survey Office data, this paper notes that the interstate and combined migration figures may be rural-to-urban but that characteristic is changing. — *Reimeingam Marchang*

Dynamics of Economic Growth in India

Using a model based on the Stojanovic's matrix of growth to understand India's economic progress shows that the service sector has been the dominant mover of the economy after the start of the reforms in 1990–91. — *Pranav Raj, Siva Reddy Kalluru*

Argumentation by Misrepresentation

In this response to Chris J Perry and M Dinesh Kumar's critique of the authors' paper (*EPW*, 17 July 2021), the authors seek to respond to a distortion of their views as well as what they claim is a ridiculing of powerful solutions to India's water and agrarian crises. — *Mihir Shah, P S Vijayshankar*

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Vol.57 No.16, 16 April 2022

RUSSIA NASSR

Subscribed

Date 25/04/2022

APRIL 16, 2022 | VOL LVII NO 16

The Russia–Ukraine War and the Changing World Order

The double standards in implementing human rights and selective wars of aggression on smaller states by great powers have led to a delegitimisation of multilateral institutions and a world that is insecure for all.

—Anuradha M Chenoy

Interrogating Populist Tendencies within the Left Rhetoric in Kerala

14 In Kerala, the process of mobilising the “people” is enmeshed with subnationalist sentiments and concerns around *vikasanam* (development). It is possible that this tendency can metamorphose into different directions depending upon the tactical priorities of the left in Kerala.

—Balu Sunilraj, Sarath Sasikumar

Making Sense of the Manipur Assembly Election Results

19 It is argued that it would be naïve to explain the Bharatiya Janata Party's success in Manipur as a wholehearted endorsement of its Hindutva agenda as there are substantial local reservations on this. —Kham Khan Suan Hausing

Aijaz Ahmad (1941–2022): An Obituary

27 A tribute to the departed scholar looks at his immense contributions to literary criticism, world politics, and Marxist theory and brings out the consistent underlying thread of principled political commitment to the working-class politics. —Amir Ali

COVID-19 and India's Ongoing Migration Fiasco

30 Drawing on empirical research with migrant populations, this article identifies four interlinked issues critical to understanding and addressing the contemporary migrant crisis that unfolded in India in the wake of COVID-19.

—Priya Deshingkar, Mukta Naik & Nabeela Ahmed

Assessing Direct Benefit Transfer of Agricultural Subsidies

36 This study uses administrative data on the sale of 4.9 lakh subsidised agricultural implements in Bihar and Odisha to evaluate the effectiveness of the DBT of agricultural subsidies in the two states. —Avinash Kishore, Smriti Saini & Musna Alvi

COVID-19 Lockdowns and Intra-household Interactions in India

43 To understand the impact of the stay-at-home diktat, this paper examined the survey data (N = 388) on these broad domains: intra-household interactions, including interpersonal communication, work from home, leisure time, use of digital media, and overall subjective well-being. —B Devi Prasad, A Eswara Rao, Sumati Thusoo & Vedika Inamdar

Examining the Contemporary Status of Marathas

51 In recent years, the Maratha community has mobilised for reservations in employment and higher education, claiming that the lack of reservations has resulted in socio-economic backwardness. This paper examines the income, education, and occupational status of the Marathas vis-à-vis non-Marathas while scrutinising the statistical limitations of the Gaikwad Committee report (2018). —Sumeet Mhaskar, Rahul Suresh Sapkal

Postscript

63 *Aamir Shiekh* on doing ethnography in conflict zones; *Anu Kuriakose* on trans-inclusivity and transphobia in Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui; *Nayana George* on the role of food in building and separating communities; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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Backward Class Reservation in Local Bodies

10 The impasse over the implementation of reservations for "backward classes" in panchayati raj institutions and urban local bodies threatens the future of grassroots democracy in India. —Alok Prasanna Kumar

The Quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey

13 This article examines the difference between the estimates of unemployment rate and worker population ratio in urban areas for the quarters ending in March and June 2021 in the Periodic Labour Force Surveys. —G C Manna

Equity Stake of Government in Vodafone

17 With its existing equity in BSNL/MTNL, the government faces a serious conflict of interest through ownership in competing companies. Merging these companies would promote policy objectives better. —Mahesh Uppal, Vikas Kathuria

Trade Measures and the COVID-19 Pandemic

20 This article analyses the non-tariff measures enacted by countries during the COVID-19 pandemic from the lens of trade protectionism. —Adrita Banerjee

Is Decent Work Elusive under Globalisation and 4IR?

26 The weakening relationship between economic and employment growth led by intense global competition and technology penetration is likely to complicate the decent employment agenda. —Ramya Ranjan Patel

Seasonal Variations in Childbirth

38 The analysis of seasonal variations in births in India reveals a distinct trend of peaking of births during the August–October window and dips during February–March. This trend attenuates as we move from the north-western regions towards the south-eastern regions. —Apoorva Nambiar, Dripta Roy Choudhury & Satish B Agnihotri

Broker Practices in the Municipal Governance of New Delhi

46 This paper analyses the ways in which informal mediation channels facilitate service delivery in the Citizen Service Bureaus at the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and give rise to an interplay between formal and informal institutions. —Sushant Anand, Sylvia I Bergh

Analysis of the Productivity of Indian Banks

54 This study reveals that cash holdings, the "growth rate of assets," the "incremental gross non-performing assets," and the "incremental cost of funds" negatively impact the productivity of banks, whereas the net interest margin has a positive impact. —Dilip Ambarkhane, Ardhendu Shekhar Singh & Bhama Venkataramani

Miya Poetry: Identity Contestations and Reappropriation

62 An analysis of Miya poetry must be placed within the larger context of identity contestation of Bengal-origin Muslims. Accordingly, Miya poetry seeks to stabilise the contested identity of this community by reappropriating the stigmatised social identity of Miya. —Nayan Moni Kumar

Dignity and Development in Tamil Nadu

69 Tamil Nadu has done relatively well, for sure, but whether the state presents a "model" is doubtful. —John Harriss

Foreign Affairs

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Archibald Cary Coolidge, Founding Editor
Volume 1, Number 1 • September 1922

January/February 2022

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Southern Economist

Vol.60 No.20, 15 February 2022



SOUTHERN ECONOMIST

Established : MAY 1962

ISSN 0038-4046

Vol. 60 February 15, 2022 No. 20



Founder Editor : **K. N. SUBRAHMANYA**

Editor : **Mrs. Susheela Subrahmanya**

Joint Editor : **Dr. Vijayalakshmi V.**

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email: susheelas10@gmail.com
Web: southerneconomist.in

Southern Economist is in the list of
Approved journals – under Commerce
and Management No. 244 as of 2019

Published on
1st and 15th of EVERY MONTH
Annual Subscription: Rs. 2000/- (from Jan. 2019)
150 \$ (Foreign Surface Mail)

The views expressed in the articles & reports
in this journal are those of the authors and not
those of Southern Economist – *Editor*

Design & Layout: G.P. Dharanendra Kumar

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Southern Economist

Vol.60 No.21, 01 March 2022



SOUTHERN ECONOMIST

Established : MAY 1962

ISSN 0038-4046

Vol. 60 March 1, 2022 No. 21



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Southern Economist is in the list of
Approved journals – under Commerce
and Management No. 244 as of 2019

Published on

1st and 15th of EVERY MONTH

Annual Subscription: Rs. 2000/- (from Jan. 2019)
150 \$ (Foreign Surface Mail)

The views expressed in the articles & reports
in this journal are those of the authors and not
those of Southern Economist – Editor

Design & Layout: G.P. Dharanendra Kumar

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Vol.60 No.13, 28 March -03 April 2022

UNIVERSITY NEWS
 Vol. 60 28 March-
 No. 13 April 03, 2022
 Price Rs. 30.00

A Weekly Journal of Higher Education
 Published by the Association of Indian
 Universities

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Subscription is payable in advance by Bank
 Draft/MO only in favour of Association of
 Indian Universities, New Delhi.

Opinions expressed in the articles are those of
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#Let'sBeatCoronaTogether

Promoting Quality Culture in Colleges of Higher Education: Role of Institutional System and Leadership

M R Kurup*

India is the third largest higher education system in the world today. According to list provided by UGC, there are 1019 universities in India as on 22nd November 2021. This includes Central universities, State universities, recognized national institutions like IITs, IIMs, IISc etc besides nearly 400 Private Universities, some of them set up by Corporate Leaders like Shiv Nadar, Azim Premji, Ambani, among others. However, majority of students are in Colleges numbering over 45,000 spread across the country. These institutions together account for over 20 million enrolments of students, almost equally divided between male and female. As many as 4 million students are enrolled in Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and if we take into account the 13 State Open Universities and a large number of Institutions of Distance and Open Learning (IDOL) of major universities, almost 7 to 8 million students, almost 35 to 40 percent of gross enrolment in India, could be in the Open Learning System.

It is equally important to note that out 1019 universities, only 381 (37%) are under Section 12(B) of UGC Act, eligible for receiving government grant in aid. It implies that 63% of universities do not receive any Central or State Government grant. The situation is almost the same in case of colleges as well. Not even 40% of colleges are listed under section 12(B). The governments have failed to allocate even 6 percent of GDP for education in India.

Despite being the third largest in system the world, the present Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in India is a mere 27%, against over 90 percent in UK and 86 percent in USA. Students are constrained to take admission despite wide variety of subsidies offered to students, besides reservation of seats for socially and economically weaker sections of the society. Reservation of seats varies from State to State. If it is 50 percent in some States, it goes to 70 percent in some other State. Young people prefer to enter the labour market to support their families, rather than enroll for higher education. Another reason could be the perceived deficiency in quality and relevance of the higher education system. The educated find it difficult to link their education to career opportunities. An indicator is the very high unemployment among the educated. The focus should be more on Quality than Quantity. If the quality and relevance of education offered by the institution is good, even those who plan to go abroad for higher studies will also come forward to seek admission in India.

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