



नीति आयोग

NITI AAYOG



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AGRICULTURE

1. K Thomas Felix and Ramappa K B

[A Comprehensive Guide to Modern Agricultural Economics](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 19 Oct, 2024

agriculture but also about the economy they are involved in. Agricultural economics is a multidisciplinary field at the crossroads of agriculture and economics, aiming to understand and navigate the complex economic forces that govern the agricultural sector. In this ever-evolving and globalised era, the significance of comprehending the economic dynamics that shapes agriculture cannot be overstated. Principles of Agricultural Economics by Andrew Barkley and Paul W Barkley is a shining star in this murky world. It is a book written for students who not only want to learn more about

2. R Ramakumar and Karan Raut

[Agrarian Transformation and Commercialisation](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 26 Oct, 2024

In the mainstream literature, commercialisation of agriculture is studied in a linear fashion as a process of growth of surplus. However, the advance of productive forces that follow commercialisation is also associated with changes in the relations of production and has important distributional implications in the rural economy and society. Through this case study of long-term agrarian change over half a century in a village in Maharashtra, it was found that agrarian differentiation had intensified, intermediated with demographic changes and migration. The share of landless households in the village had increased, and ownership and operational holdings were increasingly concentrated with the dominant caste group. Income and wealth inequalities across classes and caste groups were built on these inequalities in landownership and possession.

3. Vinoj Abraham

[The Case of Rubber Growers and Producer Organisations in Kerala](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 26 Oct, 2024

Collective actions through rubber producer societies can overcome poor bargaining power and scale diseconomies for the fragmented, small, and marginal growers of natural rubber. Membership in these societies seems to benefit the growers, but they exhibit a widening chasm with the marginal growers. Set within the context of diminishing prominence of rubber as a livelihood choice in rural Kerala, dwindling funds, and weak infrastructure have deteriorated the services and reduced the autonomy of these societies. The relevance of the RPS is predicated.

4. **H S Shylendra**

[Explaining the 2020/21 Farmers' Agitation in the Context of the Agrarian Crisis](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 19 Oct, 2024

Using a political-economy perspective and through a critical analysis, the article attempts to understand the true nature of the (repealed) farm laws and the agitation besides drawing implications for addressing the extant crisis. The government's measure appeared desperate given its neo-liberal compulsions, and the proclaimed strategy of resolving the crisis through institutional reforms. As predicted in the theoretical framework, while the disjuncture with social realities undid the farm laws, the attempted broadening of the class orientation aided the farmers' agitation.

ECONOMICS

5. **K N Harilal and Rajesh Many**

[India's Free Trade Agreements and the Political Economy of Deep Integration](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 05 Oct, 2024

India's recent rush to sign free trade agreements with major trading partners raises questions about their impact on mutual trade orientation and the role of the state. The FTAs with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Arab Emirates, despite steep tariff cuts, have not significantly improved mutual trade orientation, except for an increased import intensity from ASEAN. Proactive role of the state would be crucial to facilitate advantageous participation in global value chains. Deep integration and privatisation of governance may adversely affect public interests. The natural rubber industry in India illustrates how the state-GVC nexus can be

detrimental to participants in the upper nodes of GVCs, serving the interests of monopoly capital at the expense of unorganised petty commodity producers and labourers.

6. **Ingrid Harvold Kvangraven , Surbhi Kesar and Devika Dutt**

[The Colonial Origins of Economics](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 05 Oct, 2024

By providing an easy and elegant “answer” to the complex process of development, albeit a wrong one, Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson’s rise to prominence has lent support to a very particular understanding of development that is now prevalent in the discipline. It also provided an easy, unfalsifiable, and arguably racist narrative of underdevelopment, that reinforces Eurocentrism and a colonial world view. The awarding of the Nobel Prize in Economics to AJR once again reveals the insular nature of the discipline, and its resistance to fundamental change and improvement, apart from very narrow changes in methodology.

7. **Arvind Mayaram**

[Financing Green Economies](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 19 Oct, 2024

In 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change called for urgent action to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, requiring a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. India, committed to this target, faces a significant financing challenge, needing 5%–6% of annual gross domestic product by 2070 for climate goals. As public debt is unsustainably high globally, the headroom for borrowing by the governments has shrunk. Private capital can only meet green financing needs marginally. Infrastructure Investment Trusts are a promising solution, offering public–private finance circularity.

8. **Sacchidananda Mukherjee**

[Why Do GST Data Differ across Sources?](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 26 Oct, 2024

The goods and services tax data varies based on sources. Therefore, depending on the database one chooses, the revenue performance assessment of the GST will be different. Moreover, GST collection and revenue realisation differ as the settlement of IGST depends on a state’s inbound and outbound flows of goods and services.

EDUCATION

9. Hélène Giacobino, Elise Huillery, Bastien Michel and Mathilde Sage

[Schoolgirls, Not Brides: Education as a Shield against Child Marriage](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Vol. 16, No. 4, October 2024

We study the impact of a scholarship-based intervention aimed to reduce child marriage by fostering secondary education among adolescent girls in Niger. Using a large-scale randomized controlled trial, we find that after three years of implementation, the intervention led to large and positive effects. It halved both dropout and marriage rates and increased girls' and their parents' aspirations. Importantly, there is no displacement effect detrimental to the education and marriage status of nontreatment girls. Our results show that financial aid for education has the potential to transform adolescent girls' lives.

10. Diana Ngo and Andrew Dustan

[Preferences, Access, and the STEM Gender Gap in Centralized High School Assignment](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Vol. 16, No. 4, October 2024

The gender gap in STEM widens during high school due both to differences in student choices and institutional barriers to accessing STEM education. Using rich data from Mexico City's centralized assignment system and a structural model of high school choice, we document strong demand for elite STEM programs and relatively weak demand for non-elite STEM programs. Decomposition and counterfactual simulations demonstrate that most of the gap is due to gendered choices, with males more strongly preferring STEM. Test-based assignment restricts elite STEM access for females, who have lower placement test scores despite similar low-stakes exam scores.

FINANCE/BANKING

11. Martin O'Connell and Kate Smith

[Optimal Sin Taxation and Market Power](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Vol. 16, No. 4, October 2024

We study how market power impacts the efficiency and redistributive properties of sin taxation, with an empirical application to sugar-sweetened beverage taxation. We estimate an equilibrium model of the UK drinks market, which we embed in a tax design framework to solve for optimal sugar-sweetened beverage tax policy. Positive price-cost margins for drinks create inefficiencies that lower the optimal rate compared with a perfectly competitive setting. Since profits mainly accrue to the rich, this is partially mitigated under social preferences for equity. Overall, ignoring market power when setting tax policy leads to welfare gains 40 percent below those at the optimum.

12. Ines Helm and Jan Stuhler

[The Dynamic Response of Municipal Budgets to Revenue Shocks](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Vol. 16, No. 4, October 2024

We study the fiscal and tax response to intergovernmental grants, exploiting quasi-experimental variation within Germany's fiscal equalization scheme triggered by census revisions of population counts. Municipal budgets do not adjust instantly. Instead, spending and investments adapt within five years to revenue gains, while the adjustment to losses is more rapid. Yet the long-run response is symmetric. The tax response is particularly slow, stretching over more than a decade. Well-known empirical anomalies such as the so-called flypaper effect may thus reflect a short-run phenomenon, while long-run fiscal behavior appears more consistent with standard theories of fiscal federalism.

13. Jianjun Miao and Dongling Su

[Fiscal and Monetary Policy Interactions in a Model with Low Interest Rates](#)

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Vol. 16, No. 4, October 2024

We provide a new Keynesian model where entrepreneurs face uninsurable idiosyncratic investment risk and credit constraints. Government bonds provide liquidity services. Multiple steady states with positive values of public debt can be supported for a given permanent deficit-to-output ratio. The steady-state interest rates are lower than the economic growth rate, and public debt contains a bubble component. We analyze the determinacy regions of policy parameter space and find that a large set of monetary and fiscal policy parameters can achieve debt and inflation stability given persistent fiscal deficits both away from and at the zero interest rate lower bound.

FOOD PROCESSING

14. Suparna Chatterjee and Durba Biswas

[A Woman's Work Is Never Done: Insights on Urbanisation and Gendered Food Provisioning Burden from Baramati, Maharashtra](#)

[EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 26 Oct, 2024](#)

This photo essay captures moments of life and accounts of some women from the Baramati subdistrict of Maharashtra, India, and their relationship with food provisioning duties. In-person interactions with the women and observation of their everyday lives were conducted through primary field research in Baramati between December 2019 and February 2020. The accounts and description of ordinary day-to-day work these women perform reflects how gendered roles and responsibilities around food provisioning and care have shaped their lives as urbanisation progresses around them.

HEALTH

15. Privabrata Sahoo, Soumyabrata Mondal and Vinay Kumar

[Regional Disparities in Health Deprivation](#)

[EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 12 Oct, 2024](#)

Spatial disparities in health deprivation across 19 major Indian states are examined. Principal component analysis is used to construct the health deprivation index. To determine the reasons for the persistence of such disparities, 12 background variables related to health affordability, health amenities, and health infrastructure are also included. The results show that most of the states in central India are acutely health- deprived, while most of the northern (except Uttar Pradesh) and southern regions of the country perform better. To eliminate regional disparities in health deprivation, targeted intervention and policies tailored to each state's level of development in health indicators are required.

16. Vandana Prasad

[Current Public Health Policy Conundrums in India](#)

[EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 12 Oct, 2024](#)

A rise in the prevalence of childhood anaemia between two rounds of the National Family Health Surveys of 2016 and 2021 has given rise to much debate. The government responded by declaring mandatory iron fortification of rice to be distributed through all public food supplementation and security programmes, despite ongoing debates on efficacy and toxicity, and concerns about lack of due process and public consultation. The net result is a serious public health contradiction, raising questions about the need to rush into a fortification programme with widespread ramifications upon the food security system without a clear rationale or baseline data.

17. Pravin Visaria, S Irudaya Rajan

[From 25 Years Ago-National Family Health Survey: A Landmark in Indian Surveys](#)

[EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 19 Oct, 2024](#)

The successful completion of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) in India during the early 1990s was a landmark in the history of collection of demographic data through surveys. Encouraged by the success of the effort and the usefulness of findings, a second round of NFHS has also been launched during the latter half of 1998. Originally, the second round was to be initiated five years after the first survey, which was conducted broadly during 1992-93. (Some minor deviations from this period are not really of much consequence and can be ignored.) Unfortunately, quite apart from the usual bureaucratic wrangles, the sanctions imposed after the Pokhran tests delayed the start of the second round. The ministry of health and family welfare was convinced, however, of the usefulness of the survey and was willing to fund it from the Indian resources. As the concerned secretary put it, in a budget of nearly Rs 2,300 crore approved for the family welfare programme for 1999-2000, it would not be difficult to find a sum of Rs 6 to 10 crore required for the NFHS II. In other words, while external funding is welcome, the NFHS II is not conditional on the availability of external resources. The same was true for the first round of the NFHS, and foreign funds were not a prerequisite for the survey.

18. Pascaline Dupas and Radhika Jain

[Women Left Behind: Gender Disparities in Utilization of Government Health Insurance in India](#)

[American Economic Review, Vol. 114, No. 10, October 2024](#)

We document large gender disparities within a government program that entitles 46 million poor individuals to free hospital care. We show that care is not free in practice and higher costs are associated with larger disparities. Lowering care costs increases female utilization but does not reduce gender disparities because marginal beneficiaries are as likely to be male as inframarginals. Long-term exposure to local female leaders reduces disparities by addressing factors lowering female care. In the presence of gender bias, subsidizing social services may fail to address gender inequalities without actions that specifically target females.

19. Petra Persson and Maya Rossin-Slater

[When Dad Can Stay Home: Fathers' Workplace Flexibility and Maternal Health](#)

[American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Vol. 16, No. 4, October 2024](#)

We study how fathers' access to workplace flexibility affects maternal postpartum health. We use variation from a Swedish reform that granted new fathers more flexibility to take intermittent parental leave during the postpartum period and show that increasing the father's temporal flexibility—and thereby his ability to be present at home together with the mother—reduces the incidence of maternal postpartum health complications. Our results suggest that mothers bear part of the burden from a lack of workplace flexibility for men because a father's inability to respond to domestic shocks exacerbates the maternal health cost of childbearing.

INDUSTRY

20. John Haltiwanger, Henry R. Hyatt and James R. Spletzer

[Rising Top, Falling Bottom: Industries and Rising Wage Inequality](#)

[American Economic Review, Vol. 114, No. 10, October 2024](#)

Most of the rise in overall earnings inequality from 1996 to 2018 is accounted for by rising between-industry dispersion. The contribution of industries is right-skewed with the top 10 percent of four-digit NAICS industries dominating. The top 10 percent are clustered in high-paying high-tech and low-paying retail sectors. In the top industries, high-wage workers are increasingly sorted to high-wage industries with rising industry premia. In the bottom industries, low-wage workers are increasingly sorted into low-wage industries, with rising employment and falling industry wage premia.

21. Dietrich Vollrath

[The Elasticity of Aggregate Output with Respect to Capital and Labor](#)

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Vol. 16, No. 4, October 2024

It is often assumed that the elasticity of GDP with respect to capital is one-third, but this assumes zero markups and an aggregate production function. I estimate the elasticity allowing markups to vary by industry and with a rich input-output structure. Assumptions about capital costs provide bounds on elasticity. In the United States from 1948–1995, the capital elasticity ranged from 0.19–0.32 and shifted to 0.24–0.37 by 1996–2018. Excluding housing or decapitalizing intellectual property lowers bounds to as low as 0.11–0.26. Based on these elasticities, common estimates of total factor productivity growth represent a lower bound.

LAW AND SOCIETY

22. Akshat Pushpam and Rajeev Kumar Singh

[Nature and Trends of Crime against Dalits](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 19 Oct, 2024

Dalits have had a long history of subordination and have been victims of both direct and structural violence. This has, however, also led to the emergence of Dalit movements for self-respect and assertion of their rights. Despite constitutional and legislative safeguards for their rights, cases of violence against Dalits persist. An analysis of the rate of crime against Dalits in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh, based on the statistics available in the National Crime Records Bureau reports of 2017–21, reveals that the frequency and intensity of crimes is inversely proportional to the degree of resistance mounted by the Dalits.

23. Alok Prasanna Kumar

[Gig Workers under the POSH Act](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 19 Oct, 2024

In the prevailing legal uncertainty over whether gig workers are “employees” of the platform they work on, a recent High Court of Karnataka’s judgment has provided much clarity in the context of the applicability of the POSH Act to gig workers. This marks perhaps the first judicial intervention in India, firmly putting gig workers in the category of “employees” in any labour

legislation. Though currently stayed, it has large implications for the coverage of gig workers in labour.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

24. Anant Kamath

Frugal Technological Praxis as Empowerment

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 42, 26 Oct, 2024

Frugal technological activity through jugaad or frugal invention, collective and defensive technological strategies, or grassroots innovation can battle the lived experience of inequality, and perhaps even the condition of socio-economic disadvantage. The article argues that such practices are in fact technological weapons of disadvantaged socio-economic groups to mitigate lived inequality and economic adversity. They are the indicators of technological modernity.

