Married at 16, Sudha Ratna worked as a farm hand alongside her husband, eating meals of just rice and chilli powder twice a day. Malnourished from the start, she bore two children in quick succession; both were underweight and anemic. While her son died within a year of his birth, her daughter remained sickly.

Sidelined by her husband’s family because of her constant medical expenses, Sudha Ratna volunteered to become a Health Activist in her local Self Help Group in Chittoor district. Here, she earned Rs. 200 a month for taking pregnant women and lactating mothers for check-ups to the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) when she visited the village once a month.

Nutrition-Cum-Day Care Centers help Andhra women lead healthy lives

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About the illustration: Gond paintings by Chandrakali Pusham and Rajender
Despite India’s robust economic growth, the country has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world and accounts for one-fourth of the global burden of infant and child deaths. Young girls often enter their reproductive years in an undernourished condition, many are married early, and a staggering 75 percent are anemic.

**Nutrition-Cum-Day Care Centers**

A pilot program carried out under the World Bank-supported Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project has shown that community-managed Nutrition-Cum-Day Care Centers (NDCCs) can make a difference. The pilots provided complete nutrition for pregnant and lactating women from the poor and the poorest of the poor families and their children under 5 years of age.

Having suffered during her pregnancies, Sudha Ratna worked hard to set up a Nutrition-Cum-Day Care Center for the other women in her village, although she had to overcome strong caste differences within the community to do so. “At the NDCC, I keep track of the pregnant women’s health,” she explains. “I note down whether they have had any abortions, how much weight they have gained during their pregnancy, are their babies growing well in the womb, and does the doctor expect a case of difficult labor.”

Once the babies are born, Sudha Ratna weighs them regularly and compares their growth with those who are not enrolled. “I also ensure that the women learn the methods of cooking that can best retain the nutrients in the food – which are followed at the centers,” she says.

Although it is too early to measure overall reductions in malnutrition levels, early indicators show that the NDCCs display promising potential to improve the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and their children in the long term.

**Counseling families**

Since women’s health is affected by a number of factors other than physiology – such as by social norms and family relationships – Sudha Ratna’s work forms part of a wider range of activities carried out by the Self Help Groups to improve women’s status within the household and in society.

For instance, as part of their strong community outreach program, Social Action Committees run Family Counseling Centers that help convince rural families to delay the marriage of their daughters till their bodies are mature enough for childbirth.

“All too often, girls are married off by the...
time they are 13 or 14 years of age, and become mothers by the age of 16 or 17. This affects their own health as well as that of their babies, in a vicious cycle that goes on through the generations," says Shailaja, a health activist from Warangal district.

The counselors also try to counter prevailing social norms whereby food is unequally distributed among family members. “A custom among poor rural families is to feed the male head of the family first, followed by his parents, then the sons, with any left-over food being kept for the girl children and the wife, even if she is pregnant or breast feeding a young baby,” adds Venkat Satya, a health activist from Vishakhapatnam district. Counselors therefore explain to the decision-makers in the families that their medical expenses will be markedly reduced if they ensure that food is equally distributed among all. Also, by taking care of the girl children and their wives, they will be able to ensure the well-being of future generations.

“The counseling centers don’t hesitate to take up difficult issues either,” Venkat Satya says. “This includes matters such as frequent drinking by the men, as this reduces the money available for food for the family. It also frequently leads to domestic violence, which in turn affects the woman’s ability to give birth to a healthy child.”

Although changing societal attitudes to gender issues takes time, the women are confident that their efforts to improve nutrition for the women and children of their communities are making an important difference.

Community-driven approach

A number of innovative aspects account for the pilot program’s success. Foremost among these is the fact that, unlike current programs that are administered in a top-down manner, the NDCCs are community-driven, community-owned, and community-supervised. They have been built on the strong social infrastructure of Andhra Pradesh’s women’s Self Help Groups (SHG), their village organizations, and federations that has been established across the state over the past 16 years. With local women functioning as leaders, mentors, and trainers, the program has been able to gain wide acceptance within communities and scale up across the state with ease.

Unlike current programs that provide supplementary nutrition in the form of dry rations for the women to take home, the NDCCs provide pregnant and lactating women and their children under 2 with three cooked, well-balanced meals a day, ensuring that the food is indeed consumed by the...
beneficiaries themselves and not diverted to other family members.

The pilot program’s other groundbreaking feature is that the centers get a one-time grant of Rs. 300,000 (US$ 6,000 approx.), unlike other grant programs where resources are required year after year. Moreover, the cost of the meals is recovered in full, making the program financially sustainable over the long term. A number of measures have been adopted to reduce the costs of the meals. This is done by tying up with various government programs such as the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the Public Distribution System (PDS) to obtain supplementary nutrition powders and staples such as rice/wheat, dal, and oil at subsidized prices; bulk purchasing dry rations such as pulses, oil etc. at lower prices through the women’s SHGs; and using fresh produce from the centers’ own community kitchen gardens. Profits from the other activities that are routinely undertaken by the SHGs, as well as interest income from the one-time grant, are also used to finance the cost of the meals.

One third of the cost of the meals is recovered from the women themselves. As a part of the SHG network, the women are helped to come together in groups to undertake safe livelihood activities so that they do not have to engage in manual labor to earn a living during this vulnerable period. These activities enable the women to earn about Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000 a month, making it possible for even the poorest of the poor to contribute towards the cost of their meals, as well as take home an income.

Impact

Since 2007, some 4,200 NDCCs have been established in villages across Andhra Pradesh, reaching some 220,800 women and young children so far. Many of the centers have been set up in areas which are home to predominantly disadvantaged communities, including tribal and fisherfolk groups. Some 1,100 centers are functioning in districts where left-wing extremist are active.

Although it is too early to measure impact, outcome indicators show that the NDCCs have the potential to improve the nutritional status of women and children in the long term. According to the MIS of the program, the infant mortality rate over the 13,300 births to women who attended NDCCs in 2007-2011 was 10 per 1,000 live births compared to 49 for Andhra Pradesh as a whole, and maternal mortality was 0.34 per 100,000 live births compared to 134 for the state.

Similar pilots are also being implemented under World Bank-supported projects in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, and there are plans to replicate the model across the country under the National Rural Livelihood Mission.
Interview

With right economic policies, India can grow by 10 percent: Roberto Zagha

Roberto Zagha, World Bank Country Director in India, who has closely watched India usher in reforms in the 90s, expects them to get bolder. The World Bank country director says double-digit growth may be feasible with some small steps. Excerpts from the interview:

Will India now remain in this 6%-7.5% growth bracket?

The Planning Commission and the prime minister have said several times that India can grow by 10%. I think this is feasible. India has savings rate in excess of 33%, and a high investment rate. So, with right policies, it could grow significantly.

India has an abnormally small manufacturing sector, but a highly diversified and competitive one. If you look at Bihar and Orissa, agriculture has huge potential. You need roads, water and better farm infrastructure to realise that potential. Low inflation, a sophisticated financial system and a competent bureaucracy are the other important assets. Coal is an interesting story. During 2003-05, several captive licences were given, but today there is shortage of coal in the country. If captive mines are allowed to sell in the domestic market, you could have a boost in coal production and also in power.

So there is an inherent dynamics that can be easily unleashed. Whether the growth is 7.5% or more, it would depend on how these issues are dealt with. In India there are easy gains if they go after those low hanging fruits.

Analysts say growth has fallen prey to policy paralysis?

To begin with, 7.5% growth is not bad. With 7.5% growth you can more than double your GDP in 10 years. In some respects, I find it extraordinary that India is considering 7% growth as bad. In 1995, 5% was wonderful and 6% was like a mirage. China is also growing at a slower pace. Can you say that they have also lost it?
How does one tackle the issue of land in infrastructure development?

The possible solution will have two or three ingredients. One, the price of land in India is artificially high. The people to land ratio, too, is very high and that creates some pressure. But it’s also high because of curbs on conversion of farmland. The second is the voracious urbanisation process with FSI and density restrictions. All Indian cities tend to spread more than what is necessary because of density restrictions. The more you spread yourself around, the less you have in terms of productivity gains.

Tight rules in land conversion create scarcity for the purposes of land acquisition. The third is the compensation system. If you are a farmer, you are not allowed to sell to an industrialist. If the government acquires it, then under the Land Acquisition Act it goes up in value 10-15 times, but you do not benefit from it. It may not be fair to restrict farmers from selling to whomsoever they want. So there are not enough market systems in the land markets. The bill tabled in Parliament says that it would be market linked, but there is no market here. How can you know what the market is when there are no transactions? But again, it is not something that you can do overnight. Since infrastructure generates a lot of value and land conversion generates lot of value, it makes sense to have better sharing mechanisms. But in the medium to long term, you need to have better land markets with better systems.

This interview was originally published in the Economic Times on 15 March 2012
What women can bring to the Asian century

A stronger and dynamic South Asia will only be possible with integration of women in the development formula says Isabel Guerrero, World Bank’s Vice President for South Asia

Just a couple of days ago the world celebrated International Women’s day. Like every year, hundreds of events took place worldwide to highlight the importance of rebalancing the global gender equality and integrating women in economic development and peace processes. We probably read or heard the phrase “women’s empowerment” many times, but today, people will refocus naturally on other day to day issues, as there is still concern about the effects of the financial crises, its impact on people’s pockets and the lack of employment for new generations.

It is true that South Asia navigated the financial crisis better than most regions and that over the last two decades it has experienced a long period of robust economic growth, averaging 6 percent a year. The idea that the world has entered the Asian Century is now becoming a reality and some countries in the region are working hard to become global leaders and getting ready to give the world economy a big boost. But if South Asia wants this boom to happen, the region needs to go far beyond today’s celebration to bring women on board now: women are a key force to shape the region’s future.

A stronger and dynamic South Asia will only be possible with integration of women in the development formula. Gender equity is not only a core development objective in its own right but also smart economics, enhancing productivity and improving prospects for the next generation and bringing the feminine perspective to the table can really make a difference. Poverty can be reduced by empowering women in their communities to find their own answers, organically grown to
solve problems as they emerge. Feminine leadership is needed so the poor can find development solutions that have meaning for them and are allowed the time that it will take to get there. On conflict, women bring a point of view that doesn’t see a war as something to be won, but as a cause of death and suffering for everyone, so the feminine is a strong force for peace.

Unfortunately South Asia—that includes the culturally rich and diverse countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka— is at the bottom of the global ranking of gender inequality. This index includes five indicators: maternal mortality, adolescent fertility, parliamentary representation, education and labor force participation. Some numbers are striking: 290 women out of 100,000 die during child birth—a number only exceeded in sub-Saharan Africa—and millions of girls simply go missing through sex selective abortions.

The region is home to the largest population of young people in the world and half of those are young women. In order to take full advantage of the South Asia’s youth potential, women need to have the skills that will allow them to leverage the opportunities that are available in an increasingly global market. More and better jobs are needed to capitalize on the region’s demographic dividend and to close the earning and productivity gaps between men and women.

Girls and young women in particular face significant challenges as they grow into adulthood. Many of them can’t reach their full potential because they get married when they are too young. Half of the world’s child brides live in South Asia, which has serious consequences: girls who get married at a young age are less likely to attend school and more likely to be a victim of domestic violence. Violence against women is widespread and often socially accepted. Over half of adolescents think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife.

The Asian Century will only become a reality if South Asia welcomes growth that reduces gender gaps in health and education and ensures women voices are listened and taken into account. We need to work together to economically empower women. Gender equality will benefit all. It is not only a matter of fairness, but it is relevant to generate and ensure economic growth.

The World Bank and its partners are making gender equality a priority for our engagement in the region. We are working towards improving the lives of women and girls and much progress has been achieved. We all know what needs to be done to help the women and girls of South Asia lead a life of dignity and prosperity. Let us all join hands together to improve the lives of girls and to help young women achieve the future they deserve. They will give back to their country and to the region many more times than what they receive.
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.

Technical and Engineering Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQUIP)

Context
The Technical/Engineering Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQUIP) was designed to introduce and implement reforms in the existing technical education system. It was prepared during the time of the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) – a period of improving economic growth for India and increasing engagement with the world economy when demand for high quality skilled manpower began to grow.

Project Development Objectives
The Project’s development objective was to support the production of high quality technical professionals through reforms in the technical/engineering education system in order to raise productivity and competitiveness of the Indian economy.

Technical and Engineering Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQUIP)

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The Project Development Objectives was to be achieved through two components:

- **Institutional Development:** This component comprised of three sub-components, namely
  (i) promoting academic excellence;
  (ii) networking institutions for quality enhancement and resource sharing; and
  (iii) enhancing quality and reach of services to the community and the economy.

- **System Management Capacity Improvement:** This component supported
  (i) developing a modern management style through training of policy planners, managers, and administrators from the central and participating state governments;
  (ii) conducting studies at the state and national levels, the findings of which would be used to improve policy and decision-making processes, and implementing reforms;
  (iii) enhancing performance, quality and efficiency of state audits of institutions; and
  (iv) establishing structures and facilities for program management at the central and state levels.

**Project beneficiaries**

The main beneficiaries of the Project were the students, faculty and staff in 109 engineering education institutions in 13 Indian states and 18 Centrally Funded Institutions (National Institutes of Technology – NITs and NIFFT). Additionally, the Project also benefitted the local community, industry and the private sector and the state and central government departments for technical education. The Project also benefited the sector by making available more potential faculty members, enhanced capacity to do R & D, formal and informal networking between institutions, and building management capacity at the central and state levels. Ultimately, the larger economy benefitted as the supply and quality of technical/engineering graduates increased.

**Achievements**

By the end of the Project, there was a significant increase in the share of students graduating with honors/distinction. Between 2003-04 and 2007-08, the share of students passing with high grades increased to 50 percent for Undergraduates (UG) and 51 percent for Post-graduates (PG) from their base-lines of 35 percent and 36 percent respectively, thereby attaining 100 percent of target.

More than 1887 programs were conducted by project institutions for the local community, the unorganized labor force and industrial workers, benefitting nearly 0.18 million people during 2007-08. Over the Project period, 1,288 technologies were also transferred to the community.

Campus placement rates nearly doubled for UG students, from 41% to 76% (89% of the target) and more than doubled from 25% to 56% (66% of the target) for PG students. The average annual salary for those employed through campus placement increased. In real terms, salaries increased 40 percent and 51 percent, for UG and PG students respectively. Improvements in employment rates and wages were supported by a booming Indian economy.

Modern classrooms and laboratories were built or refurbished, libraries were expanded and modernized with advanced ICT facilities and equipment more aligned with industry needs and cutting edge research and technology were procured under the Project. By 2007-08, more than 30,000 faculty and 13,000 staff short-term and long-term training instances had taken place. Faculty and staff members received training for an average of 8 and 7 days respectively; both improving from the earlier average of 4-5 days. There was substantial scaling up of post-graduate programs to meet existing faculty shortages. Enrolment in Master and Ph.D. programs increased 50 percent and 69 percent respectively from the base-line year enrolment. In addition to services to community and economy, project institutions organized more than 1800 activities to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Under TEQUIP, more than 1,200 training programs on planning and management skills were organized in which 13,531 officers participated. Several states undertook internal quality audits. Himachal
Pradesh and Uttaranchal did internal audits in all institutions while Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal did so in two-thirds of their institutions. West Bengal even developed a formal benchmarking and results framework.

**Lessons learnt**

❖ Strong ownership of the central and state governments is essential for successful project implementation, especially if the project is designed to do the right things at the right time which has been the case with TEQUIP.

❖ The instrument chosen for the Project, a reforms-based Specific Investment Loan (SIL) embedded, worked well in India where there were a large number of states and institutions competing for project funds.

❖ Competitive funding of institutions is a flexible tool that can be used to support changing sector priorities by selecting appropriate eligibility and selection criteria. Voluntary participation by states to implement reforms increases the likelihood of their success.

❖ Innovations introduced under reform-oriented investment projects can have spill-over effects on parts of the sector not under the purview of the Project. Similarly, strong ownership coupled with demonstrable positive project outcomes can create a receptive platform for further innovations.

❖ Implementation performance depends on the availability of adequate full-time staff and their timely training.

❖ Decentralizing project implementation to the institution level can increase participation but execution can get delayed because it takes time to train all the implementers in the proper procedures. Additionally, good communication mechanisms between the institutions and state level implementing agencies and the state and central level agencies, if absent, can delay or even derail implementation.

❖ Technical assistance should be considered when projects involve new approaches such as strategic planning and results-based management. Technical assistance should also be considered with respect to reforms supported by the project which generally require a fair-bit of restructuring and renegotiation of relationships between different nodes – for example, the relationships within an institution between management, faculty and students, between institutions (in the case of networking for example) and between institutions and apex bodies (such as the affiliating universities or the AICTE, NBA and UGC in the case of TEQUIP).

❖ A well-designed results framework coupled with a monitoring and evaluation system should not go through substantive changes during project implementation.

❖ Impact evaluation should be made part of project design to ascertain project outcomes across comparable ‘treatment’ (project) and ‘control’ (non-project) groups of institutions. On projects that support large reforms, it is difficult to isolate the contribution of the project. However, because of the lags inherent in the education process, the outcomes and impacts of many investments in education are often only apparent sometime after the project has closed.

❖ Any reform-based project in the technical/engineering sector cannot omit private institutions who dominate as providers. Private aided and unaided institutions used the resources provided under the project well. However, given their relative unfamiliarity with public procurement methods, they may need greater supervision and training.

❖ In states where attention to capacity building remained weak, many internal control issues continued to be identified (reported through annual audit reports) year after year. With view to the large spread of the project and involvement of a large number of institutions, it has been recognized that for any subsequent project there needs to be constant attention to training at all levels (states as well as institutions) by dedicating an officer for this purpose.
Recent Project Signings

**Second Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (KRWSS) – Jalanidhi II**

The Government of India and the World Bank signed an IDA credit of US$ 155.3 million to finance water supply and sanitation services in several districts of Kerala that will improve the quality of life for some 1.84 million people.

It will also provide financial and technical assistance for setting-up rural water supply schemes in about 200 Gram Panchayats (GPs) – village-level local self-government institutions – in eight selected districts of the state.

The agreement for the Second Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (KRWSS) were signed by Mr. Venu Rajamony, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Mr. V J Kurian, Principal Secretary, on behalf of the Government of Kerala; Mr. A K Singh, Executive Director, on behalf of the Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency; and Mr. Hubert Nove-Josserand, Operations Advisor, on behalf of the World Bank.

The Second KRWSS Project follows the successful Bank financed First KRWSS Project—Jalanidhi I (2000-2008)—which provided rural water services to 193,000 households across 112 GPs in the state. For the first time the implementation and key decision-making responsibility of water supply and sanitation-related services were transferred from government institutions to the Gram Panchayats. The Second KRWSS Project—Jalanidhi II—seeks to scale-up and institutionalize this bottom-up, demand-driven approach across the sector in the state.
North East Rural Livelihoods Project (NERLP)

The Government of India and the World Bank signed an IDA credit of US$ 130 million to finance the Government of India’s (GOI) efforts to empower rural communities in the growth-deficient North East (NE) region to improve their livelihood opportunities.

The North East Rural Livelihoods Project (NERLP) will enhance the livelihoods of the rural poor, especially women, unemployed youth and the severely disadvantaged in eight districts of the four participating states-Aizawl and Lunglei in Mizoram; Peren and Tuensang in Nagaland; South, West and 15 Panchayat wards of East District in Sikkim; and West and North Districts in Tripura.

The agreements for the North East Rural Livelihoods Project (NERLP) were signed by Mr. Venu Rajamony, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Mr. D. L. Wankhar, Project Director on behalf of the North East Rural Livelihoods Project; and Mr. Roberto Zagha, World Bank Country Director in India.

The World Bank participated at the recently held World Book Fair where its stall drew more than 12,000 visitors. World Bank’s Public Information Center (PIC) had on display the Bank’s varied publications ranging from topics such as economic and financial management, health, nutrition, gender, agriculture, poverty, information & communication, governance, infrastructure, flagship publications, operational documents and India documents. Information such as how the World Bank functions, 10 Things you never knew about the World Bank, list of important websites, information on scholarships, India Newsletter, and brochures on topics such as climate change were distributed.

At the stall visitors could also watch films/slideshows on World Bank and its projects.
New Additions to the Public Information Center

This is a select listing of recent World Bank publications, working papers, operational documents and other information resources that are now available at the New Delhi Office Public Information Center. Policy Research Working Papers, Project Appraisal Documents, Project Information Documents and other reports can be downloaded in pdf format from ‘Documents and Reports’ at www.worldbank.org.

Publications may be consulted and copies of unpriced items obtained from:

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India Publications

Does Information Improve School Accountability?
Results of a Large Randomized Trial
By South Asia Human Development Sector,
WB, 2011
(Report No. 49)
Available: On-line
English; Paperback;
71 pages
Published December 2011
by World Bank
This study evaluates a community-based randomized controlled trial (RCT) to determine the impact of an information campaign on learning and other school outcomes. The study was conducted in three Indian states – Uttar Pradesh (UP), Madhya Pradesh (MP), and Karnataka. UP and MP are two large north and central Indian states, respectively, and lag behind in economic and social outcomes, while Karnataka in southern India is economically and socially more developed. Even though all three states have devolved oversight roles to the community with respect to government schools, they differ in the extent to which such devolution has taken place. The information campaign disseminated state specific information to the community on its oversight roles in schools and education services that parents are entitled to. Information was disseminated in 11-14 public meetings in each treatment village over a period of two and a half years.

The Remittance Market in India: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Options
By Gabi G. Afram
Available: On-line
English; 138 pages
Published January 2012 by World Bank
Report No. 66235
This report maps the patterns and characteristics of migration flows from India. It provides a detailed discussion of remittance flows to India in terms of their importance, sources, uses, trends, costs, and links to
The World Bank in India • March 2012

A Review of Highway Agencies in South Asia Region

By Rajesh Rohatgi, Arnab Bandyopadhyay and D.P. Gupta
World Bank
Available: On-line English; Paperback; 163 pages
Published December, 2011 by DFID and World Bank

The study carried out a functional review of highway administrations in the region to suggest
(i) indicators to assess their capacities and performance and;
(ii) a road map to improve performance in key functional areas of the agencies. The study also
provides an opportunity to learn from global best practices in terms of the desired institutional
structure and functions to manage transition challenges and contribute to effective service
delivery in the fast growing road transport sector in the region.

Services reform and manufacturing performance: Evidence from India

By Jens Matthias Arnold, Beata Javorcik, Molly Lipscomb and Aaditya Mattoo

The growth of India’s manufacturing sector since 1991 has been attributed mostly to trade liberalization and more permissive industrial licensing. This paper demonstrates the significant impact of a neglected factor: India’s policy reforms in services. The authors examine the link between those reforms and the productivity of manufacturing firms using panel data for about 4,000 Indian firms from 1993 to 2005. They find that banking, telecommunications, insurance and transport reforms all had significant, positive effects on the productivity of manufacturing firms. Services reforms benefited both foreign and locally-owned manufacturing firms, but the effects on foreign firms tended to be stronger. A one-standard-deviation increase in the aggregate index of services liberalization resulted in a productivity increase of 11.7 percent for domestic firms and 13.2 percent for foreign enterprises.
Frontiers in Development Policy: A Primer on Emerging Issues

By Raj Nallari, Shahid Yusuf, Breda Griffith, Rwitwika Bhattacharya
Price: $30.00
English; Paperback; 312 pages
Published September, 2011 by World Bank
ISBN: 978-0-8213-8785-6
SKU: 18785

Frontiers in Development Policy, developed for courses at the World Bank and elsewhere, is a primer that examines interlinkages in various parts of the economy and the need for practical policy making to reach development goals in a globalized world of instabilities and complexities.

The global crisis of 2008–09 opened new discussions about a plethora of economic and policy issues as well as basic concepts, frameworks, and forms of evaluation.

The policy issues in this primer were selected because of their importance to promote strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth in low-income and middle-income developing countries; and because they are “new and emerging” and necessitate debate among policy makers and practitioners.

The Land Governance Assessment Framework: Identifying and Monitoring Good Practice in the Land Sector

By Klaus Deininger, Harris Selod and Anthony Burns
Price: $25.00
Agriculture and Rural Development Series
English; Paperback; 164 pages
Published November, 2011 by World Bank
ISBN: 978-0-8213-8758-0
SKU: 18758

The Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) makes a substantive contribution to the land sector by providing a quick and innovative tool to monitor land governance at the country level. The LGAF offers a comprehensive diagnostic tool that covers five main areas for policy intervention: Legal and institutional framework; Land use planning, management and taxation; Management of public land; Public provision of land information; and Dispute resolution and conflict management.

Financial Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Road Ahead

By Augusto de la Torre, Alain Ize and Sergio L. Schmukler
Price: $20.00
Latin America and Caribbean Studies
English; Paperback; 274 pages
Published November, 2011 by World Bank
ISBN: 978-0-8213-8847-1
SKU: 18847

Financial Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Road Ahead provides both a stocktaking and a forward-looking assessment of the region’s financial development. Rather than going into detail about sector-specific issues, the report focuses on the main architectural issues, overall perspectives, and interconnections.

The report’s value added thus hinges on its holistic view of the development process, its broad coverage of the financial services industry beyond banking, its emphasis on benchmarking, its systemic perspective, and its explicit effort to incorporate the lessons from the recent global financial crisis.
The past two decades have seen exciting changes with developing countries emerging as exporters of services. Technological developments now make it easier to trade services across borders.

The book combines exploratory econometric analysis with detailed case studies of representative countries: Brazil, Chile, the Arab Republic of Egypt, India, Kenya, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Two questions lead the analysis: How did these developing countries succeed in exporting services? What policy mix was successful and what strategies did not deliver the expected results? The analysis evaluates the role of three sets of factors: First, the fundamentals, which include a country’s factor endowments, infrastructure, and institutional quality; second, policies affecting trade, investment, and labor mobility in services; and third, proactive policies in services designed to promote exports or investment.

The case studies illustrate the complex nature of reforms and policy making in the service sector as well as the benefits of well-implemented reforms.

The study focused on two developing countries: Malawi, (a low-income country) and Namibia (an upper-middle-income country). The starting point of this analysis is that anti-money laundering is essentially a tool to address criminal activities - and that, as a result, understanding criminal activities and how proceeds of crime impact development. The purpose of this study was:

(i) to provide an initial answer to the question if and how measures to address proceeds of crime contributes to economic development; and

(ii) to develop a framework that enable governments in developing countries to analyze the main sources of ill-gotten money and its effects on the economy.
Ascent after Decline: Regrowing Global Economies after the Great Recession

Edited by Otaviano Canuto and Danny M. Leipziger
Price: $39.95
English; Paperback;
325 pages
Published January, 2012 by World Bank
SKU: 18942

Fundamental questions about the daunting task of “regrowing growth” have now taken center stage for economists, politicians, and policy makers alike: Will international capital flows be encouraged or discouraged? How open will export markets be, given the structural changes and their implications for employment? How much reliance will there be on market solutions when governments—now overly indebted and wary of additional relief expenditures—are expected to deliver on the promise of economic growth?

Without a resurrection of strong economic growth in major economies, the likelihood of rapid economic development in poor developing countries is dampened. The nature of that ascent is the subject of this volume.

In Ascent after Decline, more than a dozen distinguished contributors scan the economic horizon, spell out the new fiscal reality, and highlight the policy choices on which economic regrowth will depend.


By Ryan Watkins, Maurya West Meiers and Yusra Visser
Price: $40.00
World Bank Training Series
English; Paperback;
316 pages
Published January, 2012 by World Bank
SKU: 18868

The earliest decisions that lead to development projects are among the most critical in determining long-term success. This phase of project development transforms exciting ideas into project proposals, setting the stage for a variety of actions that will eventually lead (if all goes well) to desirable results. From deciding to propose a sanitation project in South Asia to selecting approaches that strengthen school management in South America, these decisions are the starting place of development. This book is a guide to having assessing needs and then making essential decisions about what to do next.

Needs assessments support this early phase of project development with proven approaches for gathering information and making justifiable decisions.

World Investment and Political Risk 2011

By Daniel Villar
Price: $28.00
English; Paperback;
112 pages
Published December, 2011 by World Bank
ISBN: 978-0-8213-8850-1
SKU: 18850

The World Investment and Political Risk report examines the overall trends in political risk perceptions, foreign investment intentions, and longer-term demand for political risk insurance (PRI), especially in emerging economies.

The research conducted for the report includes an Economist Intelligence Unit survey of multinational investors that addresses their risk perceptions for developing countries in the short and medium term. It addresses foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Middle East and North Africa in light of the Arab Spring, as well as the reaction of multinational enterprises to those developments.

The Status of the Education Sector in Sudan

By The World Bank
Price: $25.00
World Bank Studies: Africa Human Development Series
English; Paperback;
262 pages
Published January, 2012 by World Bank
ISBN: 978-0-8213-8857-0
SKU: 18857

The Government of Sudan has made great efforts in increasing access to education for children in northern Sudan across education sub-sectors over the past decade. Estimates suggest that, on average, 90 percent of all children in northern Sudan had access to a formal school in 2010.

However, inequities in access to schooling by gender and location persist. There continues to be regional disparities in access to education by children in rural areas, with girls facing the greatest disadvantage in terms of access to schooling.

The book says challenges ahead relate not only to reducing these inequities in access, but in improving the efficiency of the education system to produce young adults equipped with the skills and knowledge to secure their livelihoods and contribute towards society. The critical constraints facing the efficiency of the system in northern Sudan include; the large number
of drop-outs both at basic and secondary levels; ineffective deployment of teachers across schools (and the inability to attract teachers to remote schools); insufficient resources (particularly textbooks) for children in schools; and inadequate instructional time.

New Structural Economics: A Framework for Rethinking Development and Policy

By Justin Yifu Lin
Price: $39.95
English; Paperback; 384 pages
Published January 6, 2012 by World Bank
SKU: 18955

Economic development is a process of continuous technological innovation and structural transformation. Development thinking is inherently tied to the quest for sustainable growth strategies. This book provides a neoclassical approach for studying the determinants of economic structure and its transformation and draws new insights for development policy. It provides empirical evidence in support of this framework as well as concrete advice to development practitioners.

Combating Malnutrition in Ethiopia: An Evidence-Based Approach for Sustained Results

By Andrew Sunil Rajkumar, Christopher Gaukler and Jessica Tilahun
Price: $25.00
Africa Human Development Series
English; Paperback; 222 pages
Published December, 2011 by World Bank
ISBN: 978-0-8213-8765-8
SKU: 18765

This report provides the findings from an in-depth data-based analysis of malnutrition in Ethiopia and its causes. It assesses various aspects of current nutrition programming in the country, noting the importance of Ethiopia’s first National Nutrition Strategy and National Nutrition Program established in 2008. The report also examines key details including costs and benefits of a range of interventions against malnutrition in the country, including some that are not yet being implemented but could potentially be introduced.

The report finds that contrary to what is commonly believed and traditionally used to guide policymaking, a substantial amount of the malnutrition in Ethiopia is due to factors other than food insecurity, pointing to the need for a multi-sectoral approach. Among others, the report recommends the introduction of deworming for pregnant women in Ethiopia—which has the highest benefit-to-cost ratio among the interventions analyzed—and scaling up community-based interventions.

A Workbook on Planning for Urban Resilience in the Face of Disasters: Adapting Experiences from Vietnam’s Cities to Other Cities

By Fatima Shah and Federica Ranghieri
Price: $20.00
English; Paperback; 176 pages
Published January, 2012 by World Bank
SKU: 18878

This Workbook offers a step-by-step guide for city officials in proactively planning for natural disasters and climate change impacts. It is based on learning from three cities in Vietnam – Ha Noi, Can Tho, and Dong Hoi – that developed Local Resilience Action Plans (LRAPs) containing a set of prioritized actions, related to both infrastructure as well as policy/regulatory and socioeconomic actions. These LRAPs are based on vulnerability and risks assessments, a gaps analysis drawing on an inventory of planned investments and policy changes, and multi-stakeholder priority setting.

A Primer on Policies for Jobs

By Raj Nallari, Breda Griffith, Yidan Wang, Soamiely Andriamananjara, Derek Chung Hiat and Rwitwika Bhattacharya
Price: $25.00
Directions in Development: DID-Human Development Series
English; Paperback; 172 pages
Published December, 2011 by World Bank
ISBN: 978-0-8213-8904-1
SKU: 18904

A Primer on Policies for Jobs—based on materials and input provided during labor market courses conducted during the past decade—emphasizes six pillars of labor market institutions: global trends, job creation, labor market policies, education, entrepreneurship, and globalization. It analyzes previous policies and makes recommendations to improve competitiveness in labor markets.
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How Should the World Bank Support Social Accountability: Share Your Views!

Submitted by John Garrison on Tue, 02/14/2012 – 10:36

This is a question many World Bank stakeholders – civil society, government, private sector representatives – have been debating in recent years. The questions is even more timely now that the Bank is considering establishing a new global Partnership for Social Accountability geared to supporting civil society capacity to engage with governments to improve development effectiveness. It comes in response to a speech Mr. Zoellick gave in April 2011 on the need to scale up relations with civil society in the wake of the Arab Spring and growth of civil society worldwide.

Read more at http://blogs.worldbank.org/

Latest from the Web

e-Institute

e-Institute is a unique global portal designed to support self-motivated learners who want to get up to speed on the latest development trends, enhance their skills, and share knowledge through on-line learning communities.

One of the greatest challenges facing today’s development practitioners is the dearth of affordable, innovative, and practitioner-focused training on the “how to” of policy reform and proven good practices customized to local needs. Tight training budgets and time constraints preclude travel to a central location for high quality, hands-on learning.

The e-Institute was launched as a virtual learning classroom to provide convenient, easy, and reliable access to cutting edge knowledge and communities of practice. More than forty-five e-Learning courses address complex real-world problems in priority areas such as governance, health, cities, climate change, and public private partnerships. Learners also have access to free monthly podcasts and webinars, video success stories, multimedia toolkits, and other resources.

Website: http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/

Apps for Climate Data

The World Bank has released new data and tools on climate change as the latest additions to its Open Data Initiative. The Apps for Climate Competition aims to bring together the best ideas from scientists, application developers, civil society organizations, and development practitioners to create innovative apps using World Bank data.

Any software application—whether web-based, mobile, SMS, smart phone, desktop, or tablet—that includes World Bank data will be qualified as long as it meets the eligibility requirements set forth on the official competition website.

The deadline for submission is March 16, 2012. Cash prizes will be awarded for the Best App for Climate Awards.

Report No. 66007 (Project Paper – Restructuring, 2 Vol.)

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

Date: 14 December 2011
Project No.: P089985
Report No.: 66006 (Project Paper – Restructuring, 2 Vol.)

Additional Financing for Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project

Date: 12 December 2011
Project ID: P040610
Report No.: 66141 (Procurement Plan)

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

Date: 01 December 2011
Project ID: P114338
Report No.: 66675 (Procurement Plan)
The World Bank in India

Joint Japan World Bank Group Scholarships Program

The Joint Japan World Bank Group Scholarships Program is open to receive Scholarships Applications, with a submission deadline of March 31, 2012. The scholarship provides full tuition, living expenses, and air tickets for mid-career professionals to earn Master’s Degrees from world class institutions in development-related subjects. The program is primarily targeted to people in the public sector, but others working in development-related fields are encouraged to apply.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact the JJWBGSP Program Manager, Danielle Carbonneau, at dcarbonneau@worldbank.org or JJWBGSP Program officer, Karim Gigler at kgigler@worldbank.org
Website: www.worldbank.org/scholarships

World Bank Policy Research Working Papers

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Emerging economies in the 2000s: Real decoupling and financial recoupling
By Eduardo Levy Yeyati and Tomas Williams

WPS5960
Simulating the impact of the 2009 financial crisis on welfare in Latvia
By Mohamed Ihsan Ajwad, Francisco Haimovich and Mehtabul Azam

WPS5959
The impact of wealth on the amount and quality of child labor
By Ximena V Del Carpio and Norman V Loayza

WPS5958
Alternative cash transfer delivery mechanisms: Impacts on routine preventative health clinic visits in Burkina Faso
By Richard Akresh, Damien de Walque and Harounan Kazianga

WPS5957
Anatomy of coping: Evidence from people living through the crises of 2008-11
By Rasmus Heltberg, Naomi Hossain, Anna Reva and Carolyn Turk

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By Benjamin Jones, Michael Keen and Jon Strand

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Allocative inefficiencies resulting from subsidies to agricultural electricity use: An illustrative model
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By B.Essama-Nsah

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By Laura Alfaro and Maggie Xiaoyang Chen
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