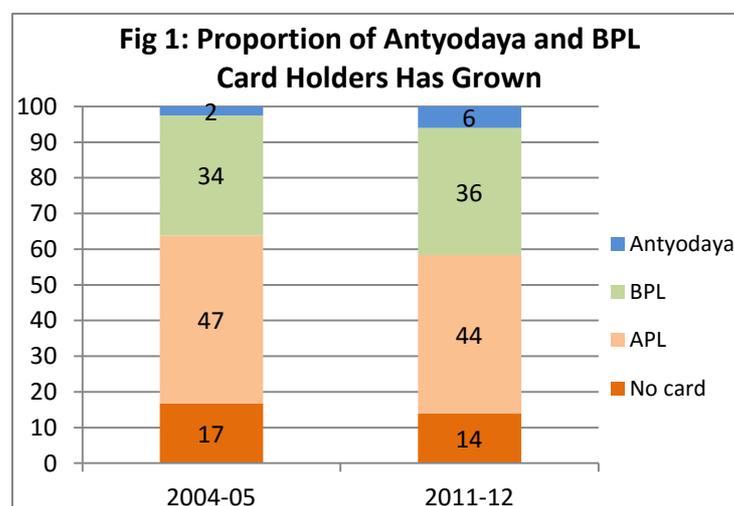


Sonalde Desai, NCAER and Univ. of Maryland

Public Distribution System: More People Rely on the PDS than Ever Before

More households have ration cards

- There has been an increase in the proportion of individuals who have Below Poverty Line (BPL) card and Antyodaya Anna Yojana card, given to the poorest of the poor. The proportion of individuals who have Above Poverty Line (APL) card has declined.



More households purchase grains from PDS shops

Table 1: 90% of Antyodaya and BPL card holders buy grains from PDS shop, as do 32% of APL card holders

Type of Card	Percent Purchasing Grains from PDS	
	2004-5	2011-12
No Card	2.53	4.99
APL Card	12.71	31.70
BPL Card	55.74	89.83
Antyodaya Card	73.23	90.63
Total	27.00	52.26

- A small proportion of individuals who have no card, nonetheless purchase from PDS shops, possibly using cards belonging to others.

Increase in PDS offtake is due to increase in number of users, rather than increase in quantities purchased

Table 2: On average, amount of grain purchased from PDS shop has gone up but that is because more people purchase

Type of Card	Amount purchased from Cereal shop for users and non-users combined (Kg per person per month)		Amount purchased from Cereal shop for users on (Kg per person per month)	
	2004-5	2011-12	2004-5	2011-12
No Card	0.13	0.22	5.26	4.44
APL Card	0.52	1.06	4.46	3.65
BPL Card	2.33	4.31	4.38	4.83
Antyodaya Card	4.10	5.68	5.67	6.29
Total	1.14	2.38	4.51	4.67

The amount of PDS Subsidy, based on the difference between market price and the PDS price, is relatively small but could be important for the poor

Table 3: Average PDS Subsidies have increased nearly three fold between 2004-5 and 2011-12

Type of Card	Subsidy Per Person per Month for users and non-users (2011-12 Rs.)		Subsidy Per Person per Month for users (2011-12 Rs.)	
	2004-5	2011-12	2004-5	2011-12
No Card	1.00	2.88	41.73	58.09
APL Card	4.93	14.34	42.63	49.33
BPL Card	24.30	62.81	45.62	70.39
Antyodaya Card	43.41	74.54	60.02	82.48
Total	11.62	33.67	45.92	66.06

Survey Description Continued >>

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India Human Development Survey 2004-5 and 2011-12 (IHDS-I and II)



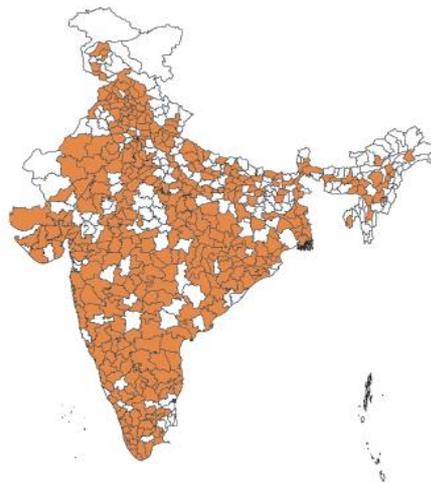
IHDS is a panel survey of about 42,000 households conducted in 33 states and union territories covering both urban and rural areas

The India Human Development Surveys (IHDS) I (2004-05) and II (2011-12) are part of a collaborative research programme between researchers from the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the University of Maryland, Washington, D.C. The surveys constitute a vast and comprehensive study of various dimensions of income, employment and household well-being, as their main objective has been to document changes in the daily lives of Indian households

in an era of rapid transformation. And while chronicling these changes

in the way people live, work, educate their children, care for their aged parents, and deal with ill health, the surveys seek to infuse the development discourse with the lived experiences of ordinary people. They provide a rich empirical database free of charge to a wide range of researchers in India and abroad. An estimated 7,000 users are currently using these data.

While IHDS-I is a nationally representative survey of 41,554 households conducted in 2004-05, IHDS-II has re-interviewed 83 per cent of the original households as well as split households residing within the same locality along with an additional sample of 2134 households, taking the total IHDS sample size to 42,152 households. The sample is spread across 33 (now 34) states and union territories, and covers rural as well as urban areas. Contextual information was also collected in surveys of village



infrastructure and markets, and from one private and one government school and medical facility in each village/block.

India has a long and distinguished history of survey research starting with the 1950s. However, most national surveys are single focus surveys, only allowing for snapshots of society at isolated points in time, making it difficult to study inter-relationships between different aspects of human development. The strength of the IHDS surveys thus lies in the fact that by repeatedly interviewing the same households, they have facilitated a richer understanding of which households are able to partake in the fruits of growth, what allows them to move forward, and the process through which they are incorporated in or left out of a growing economy.

IHDS fieldwork, data entry and analyses have been funded through a variety of sources including the US National Institutes of Health, UK Department of International Development, The Ford Foundation, The World Bank and International Research Development Centre, Canada. Logistical support for this work was provided by The Planning Commission. Throughout this work, the IHDS project has been guided by an advisory panel of eminent Indian researchers, policy makers and representatives of several government ministries. For more information about IHDS surveys, visit www.ihds.info

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