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National Family Health Survey-5 (II)

In the context of Sustainable Development Goals, six papers analyse demographic and maternal health-related indicators. pages 38–80

Satyashodhak Samaj

The sesquicentennial of the Satyashodhak Samaj has been depressingly uneventful and unacknowledged in Maharashtra. Given that many social movements in the state have been the direct derivative of the Samaj, this peculiar kind of oblivious tendency of one's own lineage will lead to cultural amnesia. Can we afford to be so unmindful of Jotirao Phule and his legacy? page 10

Inflation, Poverty and GDP Growth

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, after an 11-year gap, released the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022–23. The new source of data is the basic starting point for a new consumer price index, replacing the 2012 base. page 19

Sri Lanka's 2024 Elections

This is the first election after the 2022 debt crisis and the mass street protests that ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. page 31

An Opportunity Lost

The sesquicentennial of the Satyashodhak Samaj has been depressingly uneventful and unacknowledged in Maharashtra. Can we afford to be so unmindful of Jotirao Phule and his legacy? — Dilip Chavan

A Reserve Bank of India Study on Gram Panchayat Finances

12 That India's fiscal federalism suffers from a lack of critical analysis of local finance based on relevant and reliable data is widely acknowledged. — MA Oommen

Keeping the Indian Rupee Stable: Forward Market Interventions

15 The shifting modus of RBI intervention from spot to forward markets is examined, along with a cost-benefit analysis of such interventions. — Smita Roy Trivedi

Inflation, Poverty and GDP Growth Assessment

19 The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022–23 will become the starting point for a new consumer price index, besides helping determine a poverty line for policy interventions. — Rajarangamani Gopalan, Manek C Singhi

Elite Circulation and Renegotiating the Social Contract

31 The presidential elections in Sri Lanka is largely fought on a platform of economic stability in the context of an ongoing IMF-led reforms programme. This is challenged by the two main opposition contenders in the face of growing inequality. — Harindra B Dassanayake, Rajni Gamage

National Family Health Survey-5

In the second part of the NFHs special issue, six papers analyse demographic and maternal health-related indicators.

Child and Late Adolescent Marriage in India

38 Even after adjusting for confounding factors, women marrying in childhood or late adolescence are more likely to face controlling behaviour and violence within marriage, and less likely to control resources, make decisions and enjoy freedom of movement. — Shireen J Jejeebhoy, Tapasya Raj & Harihar Sahoo

Transportation Barriers to Accessing Maternal Care Services

45 Transportation infrastructure, its absence, affordability, and quality create barriers in accessing maternal healthcare services. Attention to mobility and transport while designing maternal care policies will contribute to improving the lives of mothers and children. — Arun Balachandran, Ajay Bailey

Consumption of IFA Supplements among Pregnant Women

This paper presents national-level trends and patterns in the purchase and consumption of IFA supplements during pregnancy. Antenatal care by skilled providers and the sharing of health and nutrition information by front-line workers have a significant impact on IFA consumption. — William Joe, Ajit Kumar Yadav, Sunil Rajpal, Kapil Yadav & Preetu Mishra

Effect of Kanyashree Prakalpa Programme on Child Marriage and Fertility

58 The impact of the Kanyashree Prakalpa programme on curbing child marriages and adolescent pregnancies in West Bengal is analysed. The results highlight the scope of conditional cash transfer programmes in improving demographic outcomes in developing countries. — Aparajita Dasgupta

Internal Migration and Maternal Healthcare Services Utilisation

65 This study examines how migration status and gender norms affect maternal healthcare utilisation among married women. Health systems should ensure that those with compromised healthcare-seeking autonomy are brought within the pale of maternity care services. — Tijo George, Mala Ramanathan

Economic Growth and Women's Empowerment

73 The relationship between women's empowerment and economic growth is investigated. The findings reveal a positive influence of growth on economic empowerment but a more subdued, if not negative, effect on women's agency.

— Mayanka Ambade, Aparajita Chattopadhyay

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