



CENTRE FOR DECENTRALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CDD)

RESEARCH

On-going Projects

1) **Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth** (D Rajasekhar and R Manjula)

As a part of this research project, undertaken in collaboration with the University of Oxford and London School of Economics, we have taken up the following two studies.

Information and health insurance for the poor

This is a randomised field trial taking place across 300 villages in Karnataka. The villages are allocated to one of three treatment groups in which agents are recruited to spread information about a government health insurance scheme for the poor, or a control group. Research questions are: 1) What is the role of incentive pay in spreading information about large-scale government pro-poor programmes? 2) What is the impact of the health insurance scheme on people's health, economic status and labour outcomes?

Corruption and service delivery in NREG

This randomised controlled trial looks at correlation between corruption and the quality of service delivery in one of the flagship Indian anti-poverty schemes, the National Rural Employment Guarantee. We also randomly allocate anti-corruption strategies to the 150 Karnataka villages in the sample in order to test the relative efficacy.

2) **Improving Access to Social Security among Unorganized Workers** (D Rajasekhar and R Manjula)

This randomised field trial is undertaken in collaboration with GIZ, which is piloting gram panchayat-level Worker Facilitation Centres (WFCs) together with the Labour Department in order to assist unorganised workers to gain access to government social security schemes. The research study is a robust evaluation of effectiveness of WFCs.

3) **Institutions, Governance and Development: A Study of Selected Grama Panchayats in Karnataka** (D Rajasekhar, M Devendra Babu and R Manjula)

Many reforms and policies have been initiated by the government with the sole aim of strengthening the panchayats so that they are more responsive to the problems, transparent and accountable for the actions. These reforms, which focused on grama panchayats (GPs), have included functional, administrative and financial reforms. Against this background, an in-depth study on the functioning of grama panchayats in terms of governance, planning and development is being undertaken.

4) **District Human Development Report for Ramanagara** (M Devendra Babu)

In view of differences across socio-economic groups and regions within a district and the need for bottom-up planning from sub-district level, District Human Development Reports such as this become important not only for targeting interventions to address specific needs but also to ensure accountability on the local government. This study is undertaken for the Planning Department, Karnataka government and Zilla Panchayat, Ramanagara.

5) **Improving the Delivery of Social Security Benefits in Karnataka** (D Rajasekhar and R Manjula)

This research project is undertaken in collaboration with GIZ and Department of Labour, Karnataka government. In this study, we seek to map and review the process adopted from the stage of application to sanction of key social security schemes in Karnataka for the purpose of identifying those aspects in the delivery process that affect the access to these schemes among unorganised workers.