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AGRICULTURE

Namita Sawant, Ganesh Hegde 1.

Missing Linkages in the Electricity–Water Nexus in Indian Agriculture

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 39, 24 Sep, 2022

Agriculture electricity supply has been the Achilles heel in the context of electricity

policy and subsidy in India. The study summarises all the electricity consumption

methods and numbers in the major agricultural states by state electricity regulatory

commissions and researchers. Clear disparities in electricity consumption can be seen

for some states and crops in the numbers summarised. It highlights the issues with the

current methodologies and proposes to develop better methods for estimation of

energy consumption in agriculture.

2. Eshwer Kale, Marcella D'Souza, Crispino Lobo

Focus on Agriculture in the National Water Policy

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 38, 17 Sep, 2022

The National Water Policy, last revised in 2012, is a guiding principle for Indian

states and it is expected that states take cognisance of the NWP while formulating

their policies and laws. In 2019, the Ministry of Jal Shakti formed a committee to

revise the NWP 2012 under Mihir Shah. Focusing on "water in agriculture," this

article recommends changes in the NWP. The adoption of an ecosystem-based

approach and climate proofi ng of watersheds, promotion of water stewardship

approach, the Water Governance Standard, climate-resilient agriculture, and policies

that incentivise increased production of rain-fed crops have the potential to shift the

"use narrative" in India's water sector.

EDUCATION

3. Sharma, Rashi and Pattanayak, Purabi

Education for Tribals

Kurukshetra: September 2022

The ultimate ambition of any education system is to ensure inclusive and equitable

quality education at all levels of school education including access to schooling

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facilities in order to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel

because of the circumstances of birth or background. Therefore, Ministry of

Education and Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been implementing various schemes

relating to education, health, economic empowerment, etc. in the Scheduled Tribe

dominated areas of the country. Many schemes are implemented with specific target

of uplifting the education amongst tribal communities with specific focus in the

Scheduled Tribe dominated areas of the country.

4. Angmo, Padma

Education & Skilling

Yojana: September 2022

Ladakh is a region unique by virtue of its location, topography, culture, history, and

natural heritage. The difficult geographical terrain, freezing winters extending to

nearly one third of the year, remote villages, and sparse population spread over a large

area, lack of adequate infrastructural support and scarcity of qualified human resource

has posed challenges for smooth roll-out of any development initiative in Ladakh. It

is essential that youth are made the catalyst in the growth story through education,

skill development, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

5. Ishfaq Majid and Y Vijaya Lakshmi

Bridging the Digital Divide

Yojana: September 2022

Digital technologies undoubtedly have the potential to expand the scope and reach of

education. During Covid-19 pandemic, when educational institutions were shut down

abruptly all over the world, it is digital technologies that emerged as an inescapable

solution to ensure continuity of education by utilising various technological tools. In

Jammu and Kashmir, the Government implemented various digital initiatives to

ensure continuity of education. These digital initiatives not only helped in the

continuity of education but also ensure effective and efficient management of the

teaching learning process.

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FINANCE

6. Christopher Clayton and Andreas Schaab

Multinational Banks and Financial Stability

The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 137, Issue 3, August 2022

We study the scope for international cooperation in macroprudential policies. Multinational banks contribute to and are affected by fire sales in countries they operate in. National governments setting quantity regulations noncooperatively fail to achieve the globally efficient outcome, underregulating domestic banks and overregulating foreign banks. Surprisingly, noncooperative national governments using revenue-generating Pigouvian taxation can achieve the global optimum. Intuitively, this occurs because governments internalize the business value of foreign banks through the tax revenue collected. Our theory provides a unified framework to think about international bank regulations and yields concrete insights with the potential to improve on the current policy stance.

HEALTH

7. Philip DeCicca, Donald Kenkel and Michael F. Lovenheim

The Economics of Tobacco Regulation: A Comprehensive Review

Journal of Economic Literature: vol. 60, No. 3, September 2022

Tobacco regulation has been a major component of health policy in the developed world since the UK Royal College of Physicians' and the US Surgeon General's reports in the 1960s. Such regulation, which has intensified in the past two decades, includes cigarette taxation, place-based smoking bans in areas ranging from bars and restaurants to workplaces, and regulations designed to make tobacco products less desirable. More recently, the availability of alternative products, most notably ecigarettes, has increased dramatically, and these products are just starting to be regulated. Despite an extensive body of research on tobacco regulations, there remains substantial debate regarding their effectiveness, and ultimately, their impact on economic welfare. We provide the first comprehensive review of the state of research in the economics of tobacco regulation in two decades.

POLICY

8. Sunil Mani

The Role of Industrial Policy in Market-friendly Economies - Case of COVID-19

Vaccine R&D and Its Manufacturing in India and the US—I

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 39, 24 Sep, 2022

Given the public good characteristics of new technologies and especially those contributing to improved health, there is a strong case for state support for research and development and indeed for converting those research results to commercialise products and processes. The state support to the market is even more vital in developing vaccines for the COVID-19 pandemic, which has engulfed the whole world and has shattered the economies of countries and lives of ordinary citizens. The paper, in two parts, analyses how the state and the market have responded to the development of vaccines for this pandemic in two countries, India and the United States. India is chosen as it is one of the leading manufacturers of low-cost vaccines, and the US is selected as it is the top country where systematic R&D on vaccines is carried out. In this part, the focus is on the renewed debate on the use of industrial policy and surveys the specific policy instruments used by one of the leading market-friendly economies in the world, namely the US, in successfully developing within a short period of time a number of highly effective vaccines for COVID-19.

9. Shyam Sreekumaran Nair, Santhi Perumal and M H Bala Subrahmanya

The National e-Commerce Policy, 2019

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 38, 17 Sep, 2022

The draft national e-commerce policy 2019 states that the e-commerce platforms use network effects and mining of unstructured data to create entry barriers. We argue that network effects alone do not create sustainable competitive advantage for the platforms. The added effect of the high customer switching costs creates a dominant position for the big firms. It is to be noted that their business models are not built around data. The provision of consumer data or the regulation of foreign participation in this space, does not translate into better business opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises due to their small-scale operations. Rather, the big domestic retail players might take over and limit the opportunities.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

10. B A Prakash

Fiscal Decentralisation and Finances of Gram Panchayats and Municipalities - A

Kerala Experience

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 36, 03 Sep, 2022

Based on a sample of 56 gram panchayats and 14 municipalities, it is concluded that

the fiscal decentralisation implemented in Kerala is partial. In the case of

intergovernmental fiscal transfers through state finance commissions, there has been

delayed implementation of SFC reports, rejection of devolution recommendations,

implementation of very few recommendations and non-implementation of accepted

recommendations indicating a distorted implementation of fiscal decentralisation.

11. Tripathy, K.K

Tribal development Strategies

Kurukshetra: September 2022

The Government of India's planned approach expedited the overall development of

the Scheduled Tribes (ST) of the country, identified the problems and designed the

ways and means to overcome the problems through various social, economic and

political initiatives. While socio-economic initiatives have been implemented through

schematic instrumentations by the government, there is a strong need to popularise a

tribal-specific participatory self -governance system where the STs will manage their

own resources and empower themselves in a participative and tribal managed

development process. Educational infrastructure needs to take into consideration how

to enhance skills and the knowledge base of ST youth in the changing and

competitive world through the provision of modern, need –based training and skill up

gradation.

WAGES

12. Decio Coviello, Erika Deserranno, and Nicola Persico

Minimum Wage and Individual Worker Productivity: Evidence from a Large US

Retailer

Journal of Political Economy: Volume 130, Number 9, September 2022

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We study workers who are employed by a large US retailer, work in many store locations, and are paid based on performance. By means of a border-discontinuity analysis, we document that workers become more productive and are terminated less often after a minimum wage increase. These effects are stronger among workers whose pay is more often supported by the minimum wage. However, when workers are monitored less intensely, the minimum wage depresses productivity. We interpret these findings through an efficiency wage model. After a minimum wage increase, profits decrease, and a calibration exercise suggests that worker welfare increases.