

## Theme: Law and Economics

Paper Code: A1 Spe 27

### **Customised Agricultural Information Delivery as a Mechanism for Enforcing Agricultural Input Laws**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Among various factors important to increase agricultural productivity; judicious use of good quality inputs, namely water, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides is recognised as one of the most important. In our study we try to see whether proper and timely agricultural information delivery can help solve problem of spurious agricultural inputs, which the various laws and regulations have failed to do.

Spurious/low quality inputs result in crop yield losses while increasing the expense incurred by farmers on purchased inputs and also cause environmental damage. Spurious products have been called one of the man-made disasters which compound the several other problems that agriculture faces (Raju & Chand, 2008 ). We delve into reasons of why laws for dealing with problem of spurious inputs have been ineffective; some laws encourage rent seeking rather than rectify the problem as currently they solely rely on state inspectors to determine authenticity of various inputs rather than help farmers identify spurious inputs and report the same.

Through a project conducted in Karnataka that used Information and Communication Technology to deliver information to six hundred farmers through experimental design, we show that proper use of good quality inputs can help increase farmer yields. We also see a significant change in expenses incurred by cotton and paddy growing households on fertilizers and insecticides. Anecdotal evidence from farmers shows that through the education they received on identifying spurious inputs from genuine ones they were able to avoid losses that they earlier had been occurring.

We suggest that if government invests more in information delivery; one of the modules being recognising genuine inputs which, among other benefits, would result in more informed farmers who then can report presence of spurious inputs in their areas, thereby leading to a less corrupt and more efficient law enforcement mechanism.

Keywords: agricultural information delivery; spurious agricultural inputs; agricultural input laws; information and communication technology; field experiment

Paper Code: A1 FI 40

**NEED FOR INSTITUTIONAL ARBITRATION IN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS IN INDIA**

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**Abstract:**

Indian Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, was enacted by the Parliament based on the model UNCITRAL Law so as to facilitate Indian trade and commerce in the global economy. The act was seen as a panacea by the Indian industry and professionals. All the stakeholders expected a faster resolution of disputes and verdicts consistent with the industry norms at lesser costs. However soon it was discovered that the process of Arbitration was controlled by the legal community, judicial interventions were frequent and disrupting, resulting in uncontrollable costs. The verdicts were found to be legally correct but inconsistent with industry practices. Sector that suffered the most of was the construction sector.

Almost every construction work has disputes. The money under dispute either directly or as a compensation may be in crores. Though the present arbitration act, allows different kinds of arbitration, there is almost a norm to use ad-hoc arbitration and appoint non-technical but legally qualified personnel as arbitrators. It has been found that such appointments tend to delay the process of dispute resolution due to time taken by such arbitrators to understand technical issues and many times the arbitral award though consistent with legal requirements is found wanting in consistency with industry practices. The resolution of such disputes needs a deep understanding of the industry practices, sequence of events and the cascading effects of the causes.

This study identifies and examines the factors influencing resolution of construction disputes in the construction industry due to ad-hoc dispute resolution.

A survey was conducted by the Researcher to find the reasons that contribute to the delays in the Alternative Dispute Resolution process through a questionnaire with engineers, lawyers and arbitrators as respondents.

**Key words:** Dispute Resolution, Arbitration, Construction, Technical personnel, ad-hoc dispute resolution.

Paper Code: A1 Spl 47

## **Mergers, Acquisitions and Competition: A Study of Indian Cement Industry**

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### **Abstract**

Emergence of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) as strategies for restructuring and growth of firms during the post-reforms period is well recognized in the existing studies. However, it is also observed that the distribution of such deals is highly skewed towards a few industries like cement raising concerns about market concentration therein. In cement industry in particular, emerging oligopolistic market structure following M&A and cartelization by the firms have become matter of serious concerns for the antitrust authority of the country. In this perspective, the present paper makes an attempt to examine how M&A along with other business strategies have affected the structure of market in Indian cement industry. The paper uses panel data estimation techniques for a set of 12 firms over the period from 2000-01 to 2013-14. It is found that the strategies of M&A have resulted in greater market shares of the merging and acquiring firms. In addition, the strategy of in-house R&D and selling related efforts have also caused increase in market share of these firms, whereas vertical integration and inventory management are found to have negative impact on the same. Interestingly, profitability, capital intensity and technology purchase do not have any statistically significant impact on firms' market share. Hence, an ex-post scrutiny of M&A by the antitrust authorities in combination with other business strategies is necessary to restrict anti-competitive behavior of the firms.

**JEL Classification:** D43, G34, L1, L2, L4

**Key words:** Mergers and Acquisitions; Market Concentration; Competiveness; Antitrust; Cement Sector; India.

## **Conflict, engagement and assimilation of Sri Lankan repatriates into informal gold mining in Nilgiri-Wayanad region, southern India**

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### Abstract

Providing a source of livelihood for refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees is a daunting task for societies. At a more mundane level, the foremost problem in dealing with protracted refugee and similar situations is to provide them with livelihoods. Within the expansive informal sector, one activity that symbolizes some of its most negative connotations is informal gold mining. Deep and dark underground tunnels, unregulated use of explosives, primitive instruments compensated by hard labour, vulnerability to respiratory disease, use of child labour and exposure to mercury are just some of the aspects of this activity that takes the lives of many but at the same time provides a living to many hundreds of thousands of families including refugees and other forced migrants. While there are some reports and photo-essays on informal gold mining by refugees particularly in Africa, specific academic study of livelihood strategies of forced migrants in informal gold mining are conspicuously absent.

This paper addresses this gap; it undertakes a microeconomic study of a community of forced migrants, Tamil repatriates from Sri Lanka resettled in the Nilgiri-Wayanad region of southern India, who have turned to informal gold mining as a source of livelihood. Most of the Ceylon repatriates were settled in Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu after a pact known as Shasti-Bandharanayake pact between the two premiers of India and Sri Lanka. After resettling in the region, many of these repatriates got into informal gold mining activities. In this paper, we attempt to understand why these Ceylon repatriates got into informal gold mining? How they established themselves in this activity that requires engagement and confrontation with various stakeholders (including the other gold miners, forest department, tea plantation owners among others). We attempt to identify through the local discourse whether the displacement from their natural habitats due to repatriation, lack of alternative employment opportunities and difficulty in assimilation in the local economy and society are some of the critical factors explain the persistence of Ceylon repatriates in this informal gold mining activity.

Through a study of local history, collection of primary data and extensive interviews we have explored how situations evolve through an intersection of events over centuries, developing unique complexities at any given point of time. Adding a multi-stakeholder perspective to our research impels us to understand local nuances including the predicament of the state in dealing with real situations. While we accede to the limitation that the findings of our research cannot be generalizable to draw universal inferences, its strength is to highlight the contrary; historical and local specificities cannot be ignored if voices of specific groups including those of refugees and migrants are not to be lost in the dominant metanarrative of economic development.

## **Theme: Environmental Challenges**

Paper Code: B1 FI 36

### **Assessment of Execution Challenges in the Forest Rights act, 2006**

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#### **Abstract**

Forest Rights act, 2006 intended to provide individual and community rights over the minor forest produce. It intended to provide livelihood to more than 10 Crores of tribal population in India, provided its execution carried out successfully. On the other hand, the act intended to progress towards the goals of conservation of natural resources as per the national forest policy. The primary responsibility of the execution lies with the states of India. There are instances where the states innovate on the policy and where the clash between the common guidelines and the state's approach differ. If substantially affects the intended goals. There is village level, Sub-Division level, District, and state level committees responsible for the execution of the act. The present study compiles the archival sources found from the minutes of the meetings available in the public domain from various states and execution levels. In the content of the minutes available, the critical incidences are identified as execution challenges. Based on the nation wide data of proceedings of such meetings, a complete listing of all the challenges is prepared. Wherever, there are the instance of repeat is observed, the same is reported. An analysis with respect to the provisions of the act and the order is made. The corresponding corrective action was also recommended. The primary research question in the present study is the assessment of causes why the individuals and the community rights claims are rejected. Whether there are institutional, legal, or subjective factors responsible for this? The study proposes to list out all such factors in the different context of the execution. It will also attempt to make recommendations related to the corrective actions, proactive, reactive, and incremental and the transformational.

Key words: JFM, FRA, community rights, gram sabha, claims

Paper Code: B1 Fl 42

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF EMINENT DOMAIN IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, RESTRICTIONS IN CASE OF MULTI-CROPPED LAND AND CONSENT CLAUSE

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ABSTRACT

Eminent Domain, in essence, is about acquiring property through the 'liability rule'. By introducing concepts like Social Impact Assessment, Consent Clause and Restriction in case of Multi-Cropped Land, the legislature in India tried to provide some safety valves upon the arbitrary takings. These concepts have become the cause of a continuing political tussle where one argues against them for the sake of expediency, while the other argues in their favour claiming them to be beneficial for the protection of small land owners. The note will examine this debate with particular consideration to the above mentioned three concepts, which have given the colour of 'property rule' to the takings.

It also proposes to examine the effect of the 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution of India in changing the status of the right to property from a fundamental right to a legal right. In the context of the present study, it is pertinent to delve into the question whether this has resulted in lower compensation for property rights leading to increased external costs?

The State has been condemning land for allocating it to other private entities, who are Higher Valuing Parties, under the garb of 'public purpose'. The author argues that such practices lead to imposition of external costs and, thus, inefficiency. The present note will also assess practices like straw purchasers, secret assembling of land, announcing sale only after necessary plots of land are assembled, etc., in the shadow of the holdout problem in a country after regularisation of land. It will further examine whether having a unified land acquisition law in the whole of the country would produce a greater social value? It is proposed, hereunder, that the government should form a separate body to exclusively deal with all acquisitions at whatever level required.

Keywords: eminent domain, land acquisition, social impact assessment, consent clause, multi-cropped land

Paper Code: B1 Spl 38

## Need for Water Law in the era of climate change for Maharashtra Economy

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### **Abstract:**

**Background:** Maharashtra is well known for the farm crisis and highest number of farmer's suicide due to the environment challenges. As compare to the past the environment has shown unpredictable change. Water availability has declined from 5150 cubic metres since 1947 to 2200 cubic metre in the year 2000. According to the estimations, the country will be water stressed by 2017 when water availability will be only 1600 cubic metres. The research question is Why Maharashtra is not capable of tackling the critical issues of water distribution.

**Purpose:** The objective of the paper is to explore the drought affected areas which has led to scarcity of water at house, hospital, agriculture and even for drinking and the measure taken to deal with such situations.

**Methodology:** The authors in the present paper have used secondary data and critically analysed few case studies on drought conditions of Marathwada and Vidarbha district. The paper has come through an extensive study of the government measures and policies that there is a need for water law.

**Findings:** The paper has discussed the water law and policies for sustaining water in drought areas of Maharashtra.

**Research Implications / Limitations:** It's high time now that one has to be prepared for the future and the risks of water unavailability. Today the major issue of concern is the evil impacts of climate change which has made the state as the drought capital of the country and people to think for the need for water law.

**Keywords:** Water Law, Policy, Government measures, Drought, Climate change

Paper Code: B1 Spm 35

## **EKC: Unequal Impact of Environment Degradation in reference to the Fishing Industry**

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### **Abstract**

Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) has gained traction in analysis of economic development and environment degradation, which more or less is in congruence with the natural progression of the economic development from polluting to environmentally efficient sources of production. This process of the evolving input mix in the country's production process tends to epitomize the process of Kuznets curve.

However 'Sustainability' is not a term associated with the fishery industry. Since the end of First World War when industrial fishing picked up it has had a dramatic negative effect on the fragile ecosystems which had both economic and ecological costs.

The paper outlays the intricacies involved in deciphering the implication of externalities caused by industrialization of fishing on small scale fishermen. Traditional Kuznets Environment Curve focused on the industrialization process curing the environmental externalities. However industrial, non-selective, large scale unsustainable fishing has dismantled the ecological pyramid. The direct effects have been felt by small scale fishermen who have been damaged by the widespread industrial fishing. There exists a constant strife between the ecological constraints and economies of scale. This research extensively focuses on the inequality caused by ecological imbalances. There exists an inbuilt debate on environmental imbalances creating economic inequity for the bottom tiers. Ecological constraints which industrial farming has been challenging has caused scales to tip in favour of the large scale fishing. This Darwinian tipping of resources have lopsided benefits in favour of industrial fishing causing discourses to be raised which have both political and economic connotations.

The paper expounds on the policy implications that ill checked industrialized fishing has on economic equality with reference to EKC. The economic morphology of fishing would provide a vehicular understanding of the unequal burden sharing of environment degradation. This paper would give an idea on how EKCs affects the KCs with reference to the fishing industry.

**Keywords:** Environmental Kuznets Curve, industrial fishing, ecological imbalance, unequal impact



Paper Code: B2 Fe 10

## **Solar Energy in Africa – Impediments, Political Programs and Success Factors**

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### **Abstract**

While the markets for solar technologies are booming in most parts of the world the diffusion of PV technologies in Africa is very slow. The paper analysis different solar market segments like markets for off-grid and on-grid PV technologies and concludes that the market development is very much different from that of European countries. Whereas in countries like Germany most of the PV plant show a capacity between 1 and 10 kW in most African countries 2 types of technologies are dominating: Pico PV with a capacity of less than 5W and large utility size systems with a capacity greater than 1 MW. The market for bigger off-grid technologies and smaller on-grid technologies, offering a lot of job opportunities, is hanging behind.

**Keywords:** PV-technology, Solar lamp, Solar Home System, back-up system, utility-size PV plant, off-grid, on-grid

## **Theme: Consumer Contracts**

Paper Code: C2 Spl 17

### **Consumer Learning and Trademark Dilution**

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#### **Abstract**

Consumers are imperfectly informed about product qualities, whereas consumers gather more information by repeated purchases. Trademark identifies product qualities and helps consumers form perceptions on a particular product relating their past to future consuming experience. When consumers confuse on product's information and identification, so they purchase the wrong goods where its characteristics do not conform to the past experience of consumers, causing trademark to be diluted. The dilution can damage trademark effectiveness or increase search cost of consumer. This paper analyses a process of trademark dilution – how consumers learn about the real qualities of the product and its consequence on trademark's value. In the long run, consumers learn product's expected qualities, which related to the value of the trademark. Consumer's perceptions are divided into exogenous qualities (characteristics which consumer use to make a purchase decision, such as price and labeling) and endogenous qualities (characteristics which are unobservable by consumers, such as safety and nutrition). The perception affects trademark's reputation and dilution. From the perspective of consumers, trademark is important because endogenous qualities are abstract. The transaction costs to learn endogenous qualities are significantly higher than the transaction costs of learning exogenous qualities. Difference in transaction costs between realizing exogenous and endogenous qualities determines cost of consumer learning. If the expected endogenous quality changes, consumers may not be able to notice. If the expected exogenous quality changes, consumers could notice and related it as a signal of changes in endogenous qualities. When the trademark's qualities are inconsistent (different from consumer learning) on exogenous qualities, trademark could be diluted because of consumer misperception.

Keywords: Trademark Dilution, Consumer Learning, Search Cost, Reputation and Quality.

Paper Code: C2 Spm 26

**Quantity flexible contract under information asymmetry**

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**Abstract**

In this paper we design a quantity flexible contract in a two-echelon supply chain with a single manufacturer and a single retailer. Here we consider specific type of products for which the customers of the manufacturer's product place orders with the retailer prior to the beginning of the selling season. The exact demand is known to the retailer at the beginning of the selling period once all the orders have been placed. We consider the demand patterns during the period of the placement of orders from the customers as the private information of the retailer. Under such an environment of information asymmetry we propose a contract between the manufacturer and the retailer which enables the retailer to order the exact realized demand from the manufacturer. We propose to develop and analyse the underlying adverse selection model in a principal-agent framework. Our contract design enables a win-win situation for the manufacturer as well as the retailer.

**Key words:** supply chain coordination, quantity flexible contract, information asymmetry, adverse selection , mechanism

Paper Code: D1 Spsy 60

**Gender Identity, Perceived Gender Discrimination and Stress Among Working Professionals.**

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**Key Words:** Gender Identity, Perceived Gender Discrimination, Stress, Gender, Social Identity

**Abstract**

Gender Identity is a concept of self with respect to social categories, the association of oneself with a particular gender- male or female. Gender identity gives meaning to how individuals think or act and thus affects the perception of their social roles at work and at home. This suggests that one's gender identity can be linked to how employees perceive their treatment at work. Thus, gender identity may be associated with the perception of gender discrimination. The experience of discrimination and unfair treatment due to one's gender can have negative implications such as resentment towards one's supervisor or colleagues, conflict, frustration, thereby elevating stress at work. This study examines the relationship between gender identity, perceived gender discrimination and stress among employees working across different professions (males and females). The purpose is to gauge the current levels of gender discrimination and stress at the workplace and whether gender identity creates a significant difference in the experience of gender discrimination and stress. A 16-item gender version of the Collective Self-Esteem scale (Luhtanen & Crocker, 1992) was used to measure gender identity. A four item Perceived Gender Discrimination Scale (Foley, Hang-Yue & Wong, 2005) was used to measure the participants' perception of gender discrimination at work and a 24-item Professional Life Stress Scale (Fontana D, 1989) was used to measure stress levels of the participants. The total sample consisted of 119 working professionals, 50 males and 69 females. Results from t-test indicated a significant difference between male and female working professionals on gender identity. Gender identity, perceived gender discrimination and stress were found to be significantly correlated. Step-wise multiple regression analysis revealed that perceived gender discrimination is predicted by gender identity and that stress is predicted by gender identity and perceived gender discrimination.

## **Theme: Intellectual Property Rights**

Paper Code: E1 Fl 25

### **Economic analysis of Pharmaceutical Patent regime in India: A study in light of pre and post TRIPS regimes.**

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Gandhinagar.

#### **Abstract**

Pharmaceutical patents are the most important aspects of the intellectual property regime driven economy. India is always recognized as a pharmaceutical industry hub in the world. However, with the implementation of TRIPS agreement in the year 2005 especially in the field of patents, the said industry faced some fear of international aspects of strict patent regime. The fear was visible in form of various patent infringement claims and shutdown of various generic pharmaceutical industries which were governed and progressed under the process patent regime. The adaption of international aspects are always measured through the economic aspects and after 2005, the evaluation of pharmaceutical industries has become very crucial. The post TRIPS regime emphasized on the product patent regime and due to the same, many pharmaceutical units are facing trouble in operation especially those which are included in the generic drugs industries. Also the price increasing aspects are not apart. This research paper will focus on various economic aspects of pre and post TRIPS pharmaceutical patent regime. The basic economic concept cannot be discussed in absence of the constitutional mandates and judicial decisions. Thus, the researchers want to justify the concept of economic analysis of pharmaceutical patent regime in eye of international aspects as well as the interest of people and genuine requirement of medicines. Finally, this research will also consider the new IPR policy introduced by the government recently and it will also justify the futuristic aspects of the implementation of the policy by virtue of suitable amendments.

Paper Code: E1 Su 54

## **WTO Plus Issues, Mega Regional Trade Deals and Their Impact on Indian Economy: A Factual Exposition**

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### **Abstract**

The paper discusses the so called WTO plus issues. These are sometimes hidden through in the fine print of the Mega Trade Talks including bilateral Free Trade treaties and the WTO ministerial meetings. The paper discusses the downside impact of WTO plus issues on India. The paper then discusses some corrective actions that need to be taken including providing solutions to the core issues related to pharmaceutical investments and affordability and accessibility of medicines to common citizens, inadequate investments in promoting Research and Development in promoting effective antibiotics, government procurement for fulfilling social, economic and security objectives, investor dispute settlements through local courts, designing competition policies, promoting green investments, effective labour standards, food security issues, trade facilitation, trade in Services, among other issues. The paper keeps the TPP agreement and the usual WTO provisions as the two templates (acting as barometers) for discussing the WTO plus issues. The paper has some important policy recommendations for developing countries in general.

Paper Code: E1 FL 23

## Arbitration in Intellectual Property Disputes Resolution

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### **ABSTRACT**

Intellectual property rights are as strong as the means to enforce them. There is a growing interest in resolving intellectual property rights disputes through arbitration and mediation rather than adversarial methods of dispute resolution through State courts especially when involving parties are from different jurisdiction which may give rise to issues of conflict of laws. In that context, arbitration and mediation as a private and confidential procedure, is increasingly being used to resolve disputes involving intellectual property rights. In 2014, the World Intellectual Property Organization Arbitration and Mediation Centre revised its arbitration rules. The revision is part of a wave of recent updates of institutional arbitral rules. The theme of paper is to analyse the scope of Arbitration and Mediation in Intellectual Property Disputes. The paper in brief would discuss the WIPO Centre as an arbitral institution and assesses the features of the WIPO Rules that make them suitable for the particular challenges of IP-related disputes. The paper will discuss the question of arbitrability of IP disputes in the context of burgeoning conflicts between non-state enterprises in course of business and trade. The paper would also highlight the issue that Intellectual Property disputes often implicate interim measures and technical expertise and how the same is perceived in the international Forum. The paper would also highlight the Indian example especially from the field of patent and trademarks where there is a trend observed to resolve the dispute outside the court through these methods.

## Theme: Law and Finance

Paper Code: F1 FE 78

### **Informal Financial Contracts and their Transaction Costs: Evidence from Agra Footwear Cluster**

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Why do informal markets resist formalizing, even when the gains of doing so outweigh its costs? Through a primary survey in the centuries old Agra footwear cluster, we argue that the usually provided explanations of path dependency are insufficient for a full understanding of the stubbornness of informal markets to change. We argue that informal markets may not break-out of informality because of deeply embedded idiosyncratic knowledge. Idiosyncratic knowledge is acquired by individual learning processes that are shared in groups but cannot be transferred between individuals and groups. By exploring the Agra footwear cluster we show that institutions in informal markets hinged on idiosyncratic knowledge can't change easily, and that such a change would be resisted by incumbent market participants.

Manufacturers in Agra have to sell the shoes on credit. Supplying products on credit poses the problem of credible commitments and shortage of running cash (which is crucial in the predominantly unorganized and poor household units that Agra is characterized by). The market has evolved an institution of credit-slips (called *parchi* in Hindi), which solves these problems simultaneously. The trader who purchases the shoes issues a *parchito* to the manufacturer, which acts as a contractual promise, to be redeemed on the date mentioned on the *parchi*. At the same time, to maintain cash flow in the market, there are middlemen who buy these *parchis* anytime, charging an interest rate, which depends on the goodwill and reputation of the trader who has issued the *parchi*. This incentivizes the trader to fulfill the promise duly (poorly reputed traders' *parchis* are sold at higher interest rates which is costly for manufacturers). The *parchis* in effect therefore, act as a commercial paper.

Through my primary survey, I have discovered that the average interest rate of these *parchis* (17%) is significantly higher than formal lending rates of the banks (11.5%) for comparable capital. In exploring why do manufacturers still prefer informal lending, I estimate the transaction costs of banks in India for working capital loans.



Paper Code: F1 FE 79

## **Role of FSB as a Macro-Prudential Regulator in the Global Financial Regulatory System**

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### **Abstract**

**Global financial regulatory system (GFRS)** evolved and developed after post G-20 London Summit where **Financial Stability Board (FSB)** emerged as a **Macro-prudential regulator (MaPR)**. In GFRS, the focus shifted from micro-prudential regulation to macro prudential regulation. The stability and sustainability of global financial system is the mandate of Marco Prudential Supervision as stated in Article 2 of the Charter of the Financial Stability Board. However, FSB does not create any legal rights or obligations towards member nations (Article 23, Charter of FSB). Though FSB is part of soft law, due to peer group pressure and international goodwill, the member nations are strictly implementing the recommendations or standards as agreed upon by them. The institutionalizing of FSB will increase economic efficiency and it will incentivize non-FSB members to implement international financial standard. FSB can play a key role and mark its footprint as a Supra Global Financial Authority or **World Financial Organization (WFO)** in the global financial regulatory system.

Paper Code:

## **Evaluating effects of Perceived Cybercrime risk on Mobile App Payment Users in Tier-1 cities in India**

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Abhinav Pal, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune

### **Abstract**

Innovations in technology have integrated smart phones with the banking industry. The dependence on smart phones for transaction is promoted by the banks and is translated by the end users as well. The internet dependent application based generation is also undergoing a pervasive threat of cybercrime which is a result of inappropriate knowledge and skill of using the application based payments. Although, the degree and the spread of the economic impact is difficult to quantify, yet the problem of cybercrime has engulfed multiple users. The paper presents a projected framework which would draw variables from technology acceptance models and integrate them in tandem with cyber criminology. The linkages between the variables are tested with data collected from urban users where rate of diffusion of mobile application based payments are high. The effects are gauged by taking into consideration the perceived risk of cybercrime and adjusted for the user's confidence online. The hypothesized relationships also link primary variables like trust, perception of users, societal influence and awareness. The data is collected from tier-1 cities in India and the study has made use of Structural equation modeling to test the hypotheses. The results reflect that there is an adverse effect of perceived risk of cybercrime on the use of apps for transacting online. It is also found that there has been a strong correlation between the victims of cybercrime and their frequency of usage before and after the crime. The results also reflect that confidence of users is inversely dependent on application based users cybercriminal risk which increases their tendency to use mobile apps for making transactions. The results would help the online merchants to devise better standards to retain customers who underwent cybercrime to control adverse publicity through societal influence.

**Keywords:** Technology Acceptance Model, Cyber Crime, Mobile Apps, Tier-1 cities, India, Consumer Behavior

Paper Code: F1 Sphss 73

### **What drives level of Financial Inclusion: Study with reference to India?**

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#### **Abstract**

Financial Inclusion is becoming the buzzword amongst the policy makers and academicians. Financial inclusion is one of the important strategies for reaching the inclusive growth of any economy. Past studies reveals that there are number of factors that drives the level of inclusion in an economy such as level of income, occupation, gender, education level, financial literacy and so on. This factor varies with the cross country studies. The objective of the present study is to find out the significant factors that determines the level of financial inclusion with reference to India. The determinants include the per capita income as representative for the overall wellbeing, domestic credit to the private sector as percentage of GDP as indicator of financial depth, number of commercial bank branches per 1,00,000 adult population as indicator of financial infrastructure and internet usage per 100 adults as indicator technological penetration. The data collected is secondary in nature which spans over the period 2007-2014 and collected through GLOBAL FINDEX data of World Bank. The study employs the OLS Regression to assess the dimensions of financial inclusion. The study finds that number of commercial bank branches, internet usage and per capita income are the significant indicators of the level of financial inclusion but are highly correlated to each other. So, we introduced the interaction term of number of bank branches per 1 lakh adults and internet usage to see the interaction effect and variable found to be significant. Finally, it can be concluded that in order to increase the penetration of the financial services in the country banks and other formal financial institutions should world diligently in the areas of technology, physical access and overall wellbeing

**Keywords:** Financial Inclusion, Per Capita Income, Technology, Access, Usage, Financial depth

Paper Code: F1 Spm 83

## **Modelling Drivers of Financial Inclusion in India to aid Policy-makers – An AHP Approach**

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University, Aligarh

### **Abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The importance of Financial Inclusion for the development of a nation has been well documented in recent times. It has been widely accepted that the adoption of financial inclusion policies is key to the overall development of India as a nation. Policy-makers over the years have consistently proposed reforms to make financial services accessible for one and all. The implementation of such reforms has improved the situation to some extent but certain hindrances need to be overcome in order to make access of financial services more wholesome.

#### **Objectives**

This paper aims to highlight the drivers of financial inclusion in India as evidenced from literature. The role of these actors is analysed and categorised using an empirical technique known as Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP).

#### **Methodology**

The AHP method applied in this paper is a structured technique for organizing and analysing complex decisions. This method has proven to be effective in various group decision-making applications. It thus finds application in the present study to create a hierarchy among the identified study variables by assigning weights.

#### **Study Variables**

The drivers of financial inclusion in the Indian context identified upon reviewing the relevant literature sources comprise the input variables for the study.

#### **Managerial Implications**

The study would be relevant for policy-makers as a tool highlighting the key variables that would need to be emphasized for the wider outreach of future financial inclusion programs. It would also help in the identification of factors which have driven and inhibited financial inclusion programs and this knowledge will help in framing a future course of action.

**Keywords:** Financial Inclusion, Analytic Hierarchy Process, Policy, India, MCDM

Paper Code: F1 Sppub 38

Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion: A Case Study of Punjab

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**Abstract**

The successful inclusion of the financial services to the people of the country requires good level of financial literacy among them. By looking the strong relationship between financial literacy and financial inclusion, the present study aims to identify the main factors affecting the level of financial literacy in India with special reference to Punjab State. The study is based on the primary data collected from three main districts (Amritsar, Jalandhar, & Ludhiana), one each from all three regions of Punjab namely, Majha, Doaba, and Malwa. Data have been collected from both rural and urban areas of each districts and comparative analysis has been conducted to show the differences in level of financial literacy within the district and between the districts. Chi-square test has been utilized to check the association between respondents' characteristics and their existing level of financial knowledge. The whole analysis reveals that there exist differences in the level of financial literacy between male and female respondents and it is less in female respondents. These differences are also lies between urban and rural respondents. The level of financial literacy is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Finally, the respondent's qualification and its parental qualification also affect the level of financial knowledge in Punjab. On the basis of results, the study recommends the adoption of policies related to the women empowerment in both urban and rural areas which may help in reducing the gap between financial literacy among two areas and improve the overall level of financial literacy. The improvement in the level of financial literacy will further enhance financial inclusion as per the linkage between two.

**Keywords:** Financial Literacy, Financial Inclusion, Punjab, Rural, Urban

## **Theme: Constitutional Functionalities**

Paper Code: G1 FE 35

Corporate Investment, Court Enforcement and Political Federalism

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### **Abstract**

I exploit the variation in judicial efficiency across Indian states together with heterogeneity in firm financing constraint and distress indicator to estimate the effect of court enforcement on firm investment. I show that financially constrained firms registered in states with high judicial inefficiency exhibit lower investment, an effect that was exacerbated during the crisis. As well, investment is lower for distressed firms in states with high labor activism. Taken together, the evidence is consistent with the law and finance literature and suggests that quality of contract enforcement and heterogeneity in creditor protection plays a key role in influencing firm investment.

**Keywords:** Judiciary, Financial Constraint, Financial Distress, Manufacturing Firms

Paper Code: G1 Spl 16

COLLEGIUM SYSTEM IN INDIA: THE SUITABILITY OF THE EXISTING PARADIGM  
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#### ABSTRACT

The Supreme Court of India struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014, for violating the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, i.e., the independence of judiciary. The Court, however, remained silent on a very crucial question: whether the method of judicial appointment constitutes an important feature of judicial independence? In developed countries, it is the conduct of judges during their tenure which is the defining feature and not the method of their appointment. Although the political affiliation or ideology of the judges influences their appointment, the judiciary is said to be independent. The same is not true for India, where the judiciary and judicial appointments must be apolitical in order to be independent. Why does such a dichotomy exist? Is the collegium system of appointment the most suitable method of appointment for India? This research paper attempts to answer this fundamental question about an important constitutional functionary.

The paper will describe the constitutional scheme for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary. It will refer to the influential *Three Judges Case* and the recent *NJAC Case* to analyse the judicial interpretation of the constitutional scheme. It will describe the scheme of appointment in advanced countries like USA, UK, Australia and Canada to highlight the dichotomy in the method of judicial appointments. It will examine the link between the method of appointments and the efficiency of the justice delivery system. This will involve the economic analysis of the law propounded by Ronald Coase. It will conclude by determining whether the collegium system of appointment is suitable for India. The paper will adopt doctrinal methods of research. Comparative law method will be applied for comparing the Constitutions of different countries. Primary and Secondary literature, Constitutional texts, domestic legislations, critical writings and judicial pronouncements will form the basis of research.

Keywords – judicial appointment, independence of judiciary, law and economics

Paper Code; G1 Sue 11

## **Law and Economics of Manipulation of Census: Evidence from India**

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### **Abstract**

Census is a highly politicised and contested administrative activity in multi-ethnic societies. In India, Census Act, 1948 (as amended in 1994) stipulates punishment with fine and/or imprisonment for interfering with the process of enumeration and related activities. However, the punitive provisions of this Act are rarely used and have certainly not been invoked to deal with cases of politically motivated, mass manipulation of census. This paper examines the limits of legal measures to prevent manipulation of demographic statistics. The paper presents a model in which communities manipulate headcount with an eye on public resources and shows that the degree of manipulation by a community is directly proportional to the manipulation by other communities and independent of the fine for manipulation. The insights drawn from the theoretical model are examined in light of the experience of the Indian state of Nagaland with the help of analysis of sub-district level data for the period 1981-2011.

*Keywords:* Census, ethnic conflict, law, manipulation, political economy of statistics

*JEL Classification:* H39, K19, Z18



## **Should a Constitution contains Explicit Anti-corruption Mechanism?**

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### **Abstract**

There is a never-ending debate on whether a constitution should have clauses sketching a mechanism for the state to actively counter corruption. From the outset, it seems desirable. To many laypersons and academics – particularly anti-corruption advocates, it supposes to be the purpose of the constitution. This paper argues that the more the state has the power/authority prescribed by the constitution, the chance of corruption increases and *vice versa*. In order to, philosophically, minimise corruption, the minimal state is needed. Thus, there is no explicit need for having any clause on anti-corruption in constitution. We should carefully inspect the real definition of constitution – which is a kind of social contract where people relinquish their rights and freedom to be controlled by the state. More state power implies more likelihood of corruption – as an abuse of power for private benefits.

A dilemma arises when people expect more from state. There are many things for the state to do, ranging from pure public goods, to market intervention, and to a mere market transaction where the state acts simply as a buyer or seller. State and market are co-existed. If it is too expensive to allocate resources through market, a use of hierarchy cannot be denied. Since the transaction through hierarchy is not totally transparent (i.e. costless), corruption might be associated with its decision-makers. Particularly, governments of developing countries are demanded to be pro-active in order to stimulate the development, their constitutions might predetermine a lot of role to play, many institutions and hierarchies to be instituted, many non-market decision-makings, and, eventually, more opportunity for the abuse of authority. Thus, more demanding constitution automatically implies more corruption and the mechanism to fight corruption would certainly create more corruption.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Constitution, Public Participation, Monitoring Cost, State, Market

Paper Code: G1 P 13

## **Why Court Delays Affect Home Loans: An Abstract**

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In India, about 16,000 subordinate judges have been tasked with disposing of 21 million pending cases. At current rates, some estimate the backlog in civil cases can never get cleared, and that it will take more than 30 years to clear the backlog in criminal cases.

Commentators have also spoken about how this docket-explosion has resulted in docketexclusion, where hundreds of millions of disputes can't get to court because they've been 'squeezed out' by the present backlog.<sup>2</sup> But the court delays have engendered an even more widespread problem that has been insufficiently examined.

People have changed the way in which they conduct transactions to offset the difficulty of securing rights through courts. These changes have resulted in higher transaction costs across the board. Put simplistically: court delays affect home loans.

Take the example of loan transactions themselves. Nearly all private-sector lending in India (other than credit card debt) is secured. Lenders insist on collateral to mitigate the problem of enforcing creditor rights through courts. This level of secured lending comes with high, hidden economic costs.

First, with secured lending, the loan decision is not primarily driven by the economics of the activity being funded, but by the value of the collateral securing the funding. Second, loan defaults and non-performance don't just impact the funded activity—they also impact otherwise healthy assets provided as collateral. Third, encumbering capital assets creates artificial scarcity in those assets, which distorts signalling and capital allocation. Fourth, the encumbered assets often cannot be used for other (potential revenue-generating) economic transactions. Finally, secured lending makes encumbered assets vulnerable to value erosion from unrelated transactions. All of this increases the cost of funds in India.

The present paper will examine these externalities in detail and assess approaches that might be used to address the problem.