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Dr. Indranil De

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Speaks on:

Income Shocks and Resilience of Economic Institutions: Role of Collective Organizations in India during COVID-19 Pandemic

Abstract

In the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic, the coping strategies of individual household members and support provided by collective organizations including NGOs have been analyzed. In-depth semi-structured interviews of individuals and organizations across different regions of India have been conducted. Also, telephonic survey has been conducted on rural households of Gujarat. The interviews reveal that employment and income losses have taken place both in formal and informal sector. Around 70% of the households surveyed in Gujarat have taken credit or drawn down savings to meet daily expenses. Market and government institutions have failed to smooth out the income and consumption stream. People who work or would be able to work as agricultural labour or as self-employed, which are mostly considered as informal, have lost employment and income lesser or are more expected to get gainful employment later than people who work under factory mode of production. The collective organizations have intervened for smoothing income and consumption of households. The role of collective organizations is very important to promote employment other than those based on factory model of production. Informal transactions and collective organizations should be brought into the fold of mainstream economic policy for developing more resilient economic institutions.

About the speaker:

Dr. Indranil De is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). He holds a PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His areas of interest are institutional economics, public policy analysis and political economy. He is working with Government of West Bengal for a study on Water Users Association supported by The World Bank. He has also worked with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) as a researcher or consultant on various developmental issues. He has published research papers in various internationally and nationally reputed journals such as Housing Studies, Development Policy Review, Water Policy, Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development, International Journal of Social Economics, Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development and Economic and Political Weekly. He has written several short articles in national media such as The Pioneer, Financial Express, The Hindu Business Line, The Wire, Outlook India, Mainstream Weekly and DownToEarth.