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On

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Prof. Udaya S Mishra

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Speaks on:

On Level Sensitive Progress Assessment

Abstract

'Descent is easy, and a[n] onward motion over a level road is not difficult; but every step towards a higher state encounters obstacles; and so it is in the improvements of the human race.' —William Farr, 1875

Examining change and progress in indicators have assumed renewed interest in the current SDG environment. While in simplistic terms change and progress in development indicators are assumed to be linear, in reality the path of progress in development is convex. Hence, performance assessments should account for non-linear dynamics of progress whereby an improvement at a higher level represents greater achievement than an equal improvement at lower level. With this rationale, desirable properties of progress assessment indicators are reviewed, and an alternative level-sensitive indicator is discussed. Further, an application in the context of proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel is presented to draw attention towards the dismal performance of developing regions, particularly least developed countries from Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In concluding, we argue that post-2015 goals setting should resolve the definitional and operational inconsistencies associated with existing developmental targets and indicators.

About the speaker:

Dr. Udaya S Mishra, a Statistician/Demographer, is professor at the Centre for Development Studies Trivandrum, Kerala India. He is engaged in research and teaching on Population and Development issues and has a number of national and international publications to his credit. In recent times, he has served in various capacities of guiding scientific research in social sciences. During his three decades of teaching and research experience, he has contributed in the areas of aging, health, nutrition as well as population policy and programme evaluation. His current research interest includes measurement issues in health and equity focus in evaluation of outcomes. His scholastic distinctions include (i) Takemi Fellow, in the Dept. of Population and International Health, Harvard school of Public Health, Boston USA during 2003-05 (ii) Associate member of Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute, University of Southampton, UK and (iii) Expert group member to review the draft handbook on 'Designing of Household Sample Surveys' at the United Nations Statistics Division, UN, New York. The recent works of him include the co-edited book titled 'Demographic and Development Divide in India' as well as inspection of the rising trends in C-section deliveries and interpreting educational externalities on household welfare outcomes.