

# Structure of Society and of Livelihoods

## Main-streaming or Community or Cultural-Cooperative?

Milind Sohoni

Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas, CSE  
IIT-Bombay



[www.ctara.iitb.ac.in](http://www.ctara.iitb.ac.in)

[www.cse.iitb.ac.in/~sohoni](http://www.cse.iitb.ac.in/~sohoni)

# Agenda

## Rural Transformation

- Urbanization, increasing dependent on small towns and cities for livelihoods and markets.
- Politics of Change vs. Politics of Identity vs. Politics of Entitlements vs. **Politics of Community Control**.
- Cultural integration and common values.
- Other than in **cooperative** or **tribal** pockets, *mainstreaming*!
- **Stress and distress**.

## Social Innovation

- What or who constitutes society?
- Who should innovate and for what purpose and with what?
- State or Market or Cultural innovation? Community based innovation? Cultural products?

# NRLM

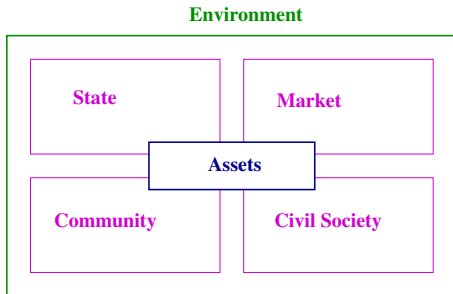
- What is NRLM? Social Intervention? Community Intervention? Natural Resource Management Intervention? Governance Intervention? Economic Intervention?

# NRLM

- What is NRLM? Social Intervention? Community Intervention? Natural Resource Management Intervention? Governance Intervention? Economic Intervention?
- What is it doing?
- What is it measuring?
- What will it leave behind?
- SHG, Federation, Cooperatives, Training, Convergence.
- My conclusion: *Largely Mainstreaming*.
  - ▶ Micro-finance. Safety net vs. productive assets?
  - ▶ Training for community based coping livelihoods? Petty commodity production? Missing sustainability framework.
  - ▶ Cultural Production for broader markets?



# Pop Structure of Society



- **Cultural Transactions:** based on identity, class, prestige. Usually collective and historical.
- **Market and State:** e.g., mediated either by Power and Money.
- **Intricate competition and a dynamic equilibrium between sectors.**

# Economic Framing

Producer	Unit	Consumer	Monetary Value
Self-Employed, BPL	Home	Large	Low
Casual, Informal Wage	Small Unit	Medium	Medium
Educated, Urban	Formal	Small	Large
Cultural Production	Households	??	??

## Key Questions

- What and How will I produce? How will I sell?
- How will I train myself to deliver value?
- What are the hurdles to achieve these?
- What are my aspirations?

# Hurdle 1: Basic Well-being and resources



- Basic issues of water, food, health and *living!*
- Severe stress in natural resources. *Fodder, Firewood.*



# Stress



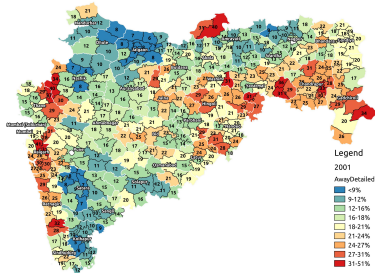
# When that happens...



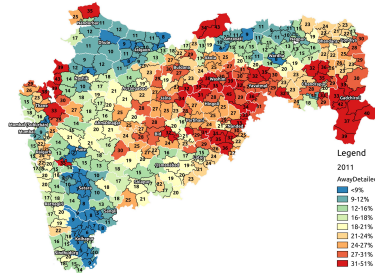
- Women have to walk long distances, spend substantial time and effort.
- In some cases, tankers may be used by the district administration to supply water.
- access may reduce to 10-15 lpcd!
- adverse impact on incomes and well-being

# Rural Maharashtra: 2001 and 2011

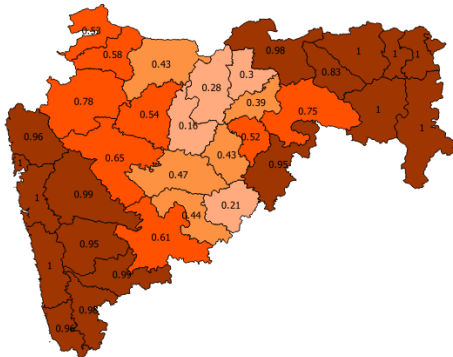
Percentage of Rural Households with Primary Source more than 500m away (2001)



Percentage of Rural Households with Primary Source more than 500m away (2011)



# Urban Drinking Water



# Hurdle II-Social Understanding

- Poor community understanding and comprehension of the role of the state and the market.
- *Inability to identify and act for common good.*
- PDS, BPL-APL, roads, drinking water and sanitation, school teachers, common lands.
- Outside the community-APMC, bank loans, public transport, dealing with ZP and tehsil office.
- *Inability to move from the house-holder to the citizen.*

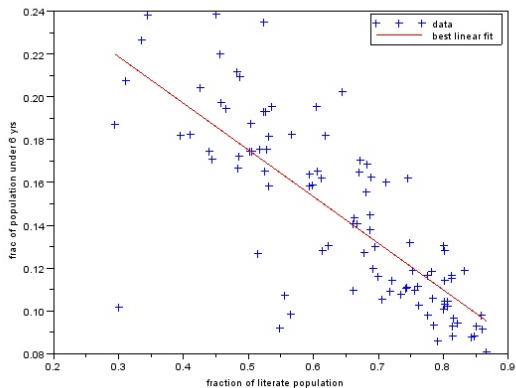
Never taught, but it matters.



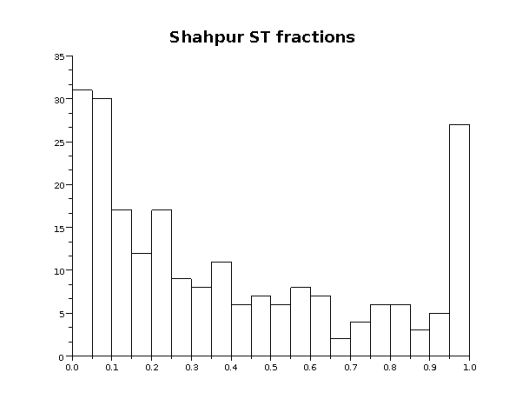
# Typical Issue

## Population Pressure.

Shahpur taluka: Population fraction under 6 yrs vs. literate fraction.



# Social Cohesion



# Hurdle-III: Poor Technical Efficiency



# Trades



# Even Farming-Horticulture



Importance of extension, access to market, coordination, land-use and contracts, community support.

# Hurdle-III: Formal Education

The very basis of Social Transformation.

- Irrelevant. Language barrier. Aspirational rather than realistic.
- Rural-Urban and gender divide.

Table 8: NSSO (2011-2012, 68th round) statistics on household expenditure on education.									
		Andhra Pradesh Urban	Andhra Pradesh Rural	Rajasthan Urban	Rajasthan Rural	Odisha Urban	Odisha Rural	Tamil Nadu Urban	Tamil Nadu Rural
Households with one studying male	Mean (Rs.)	9919	5706	19096	4362	5765	1787	11046	8493
	Number of Samples	365	373	235	263	143	291	373	293
	Gini	0.61	0.58	0.56	0.64	0.65	0.70	0.64	0.67
Households with one studying female	Mean (Rs.)	9233	3752	9369	3431	4278	2292	12653	6949
	Number of samples	281	245	98	126	94	191	321	259
	Gini	0.61	0.55	0.60	0.56	0.82	0.76	0.65	0.69

# Hurdle-III: Formal Education

- Continued Polarization.

<b>Table 7: Rural-Urban statistics for JEE.</b>						
	JEE 2011		JEE 2012		JEE (Advanced) 2014	
Cohort	Registered	Qualified	Registered	Qualified	Registered	Qualified
Village	19%	10%	19%	11%	13%	10%
Town	29%	25%	29%	26%	19%	14%
City	52%	65%	52%	63%	68%	76%

# Hurdle-IV Formal Sector in trouble

## Sector-wise GDP

India	Agriculture	Industry	Services	Per capita ( in USD)
GDP (2012) (%)	17.4	25.8	56.9	1.5K
Employment (%)	51.1	22.4	26.6	-
GDP China	10	44	46	6.8K
GDP S. Korea	3	40	57	25K
GDP Germany	1	28	71	43K

## Top Formal Employers

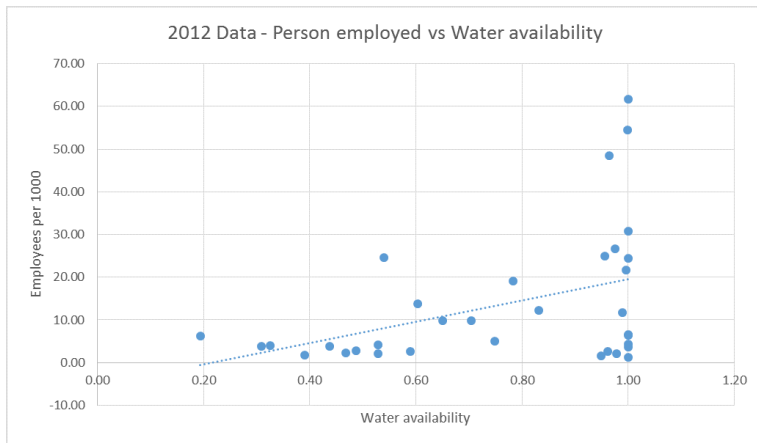
Industry	Food	Textiles	Metals	Apparel	Non-metals
Wages (Rs. lakhs)	0.70	0.80	1.35	0.67	0.69



# Food Sector

- Domination by MNCs
  - ▶ little R&D, imported know-how, few jobs, large profits, strict sub-contracting
  - ▶ huge spending on advertisements. Game-changing.
- Poor access to quality control, R&D. Poor trust in standards.
- Customer perception of quality and aspirational dysfunction.
- Highly uncertain environment. Credit, Workers, Supervisors, Transport, Raw materials. Water, Electricity.

# Drinking Water and formal sector jobs



# What to do?

- **Livelihoods**: A composite approach.
  - ▶ Careful look at Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Himachal and Kerala.

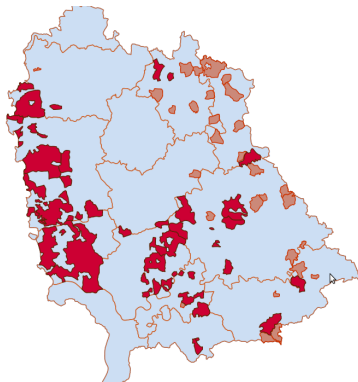
## Transition from Commodity to Cultural Goods

- Strengthen handicrafts, re-claim foods, extend to household products.
  - Needs technical, social and enterprise innovation.
  - **Consumer and Citizen Choice** : Towards a sustainable *civil* society.
- 
- **Governance**: Water and sanitation, public transport, health.
  - **Knowledge Formation**: Social comprehension and collective action, Extension, higher and school education.
  - **Level field for mainstreaming**: Information asymmetry, standardization, access to markets, R&D.

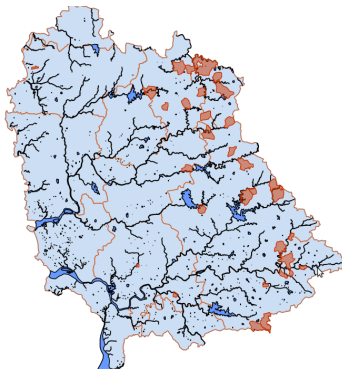
# CTARA Research and Training

## Governance

Location of large rural  
regional drinking water  
schemes



Location of rivers and lakes



*Data from MRSAC, Census  
2001, District administrative  
offices*

# Socio-Technical Analysis

## Intervention analysis

- Who values it? Who all benefit? Who loses? Who produces? Who validates?
- **State** is usually an important elephant in the room, if not a direct player.

Sector	Intervention	Producer
Household	Water Filter	Small Enterprise
Community	PWS scheme	Large contractor
State	Water Meters	High-Tech enterprise
State	Groundwater models	University/Consultancy
Household	Rainwater Harvesting	Small Enterprise

# The areas of the future

- **SME and Informal Enterprises.** Bringing the benefits of technology, increasing efficiency, improving market access.
- **City and District Administration.** Improving planning, transport, infrastructure, logistics, optimization.
- **Core Sectors.** Water supply and sanitation, Electricity grid, Solar, Food, supply chains.

This would in turn create the demand for new instruments, gadgets, machines, tools for analysis and design, simulators  $\Rightarrow$  better engineering, better efficiency, better value

# Solar-steam based *Istry* in Parbhani



# Optimizing Irrigation in Shahpur, Thane





# Processes at Ganapaty Factory in Pen



# Thanks

