

## Introduction

These data were collected in the framework of Dr. Annemie Maertens' PhD dissertation during the period August 2007 – July 2009. The dissertation was undertaken from Cornell University, but executed in India in collaboration with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). The project was sponsored through an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (Grant No. 0649330).

The main goal of this project was to collect and analyze household survey data in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra in order to gain a better understanding of the role of social networks and identity in economic decision-making. The second panel of this research studied the role of constraints in educational investment in girls, focusing on marriage related social norms and customs (Dokur, Shirapur and Kalman).

The data collection consisted of five phases: (1) qualitative round (to determine the topic of the two panels); (2) trial round (to field test the questionnaires); (3) training round (to train the enumerators); (4) quantitative collection round (to collect the household level, village level data); (4') data entry of (4) ; (5) data validation round (to collect additional data to correct the missing variables and inconsistencies uncovered in (4')). The first phase was completed by the beginning of November 2007, the second by the end of December 2007, the third by the end of January 2008 and the fourth by the end of July 2008 and fifth by the end of July 2009.

The data collected are available free of charge. I would like to request that those intending to use the data would register by emailing [am445@cornell.edu](mailto:am445@cornell.edu), stating their contact details and research topic. Any questions and comments can be addressed to [am445@cornell.edu](mailto:am445@cornell.edu).

The villages selected for this study are part of the Village Level Studies (VLS) program ICRISAT. In this program, ICRISAT followed 300 randomly selected households from six villages during the period 1975-1985 every three weeks. In 2001, ICRISAT restarted the panel, revisiting 185 of the first generation VLS households and their split-offs, in addition to 261 newly added households. This data collection is currently ongoing.

To obtain the 1975-1985 and 2001-2006 data:

<http://www.icrisat.org/gt-mpi/knowledgeBase/Databases/vls.asp>

To obtain the 2001-2006 data, see also:

<http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/members/stefan.dercon/icrisat/ICRISAT/index.html>

## Published papers resulting from these data

Chari, A V and Maertens, Annemie (2014) [\*Gender, productive ability and the perceived returns to education: evidence from rural India\*](#). Economics Letters, 122 (2). pp. 253-257. ISSN 0165-1765

Maertens, Annemie (2013) [\*Social norms and aspirations: age of marriage and education in rural India\*](#). World Development, 47. pp. 1-15. ISSN 0305-750X

Maertens, Annemie (2011) [\*Does education pay off? Subjective expectations with regard to education in rural India\*](#). Economic and Political Weekly, 46 (9). pp. 58-63. ISSN 0012-9976

Structure of the sample

In the second panel of the project, I covered 339 ICRISAT-VLS households in Dokur, Kanzara and Kinkhed. Among these household, I conducted a household questionnaire and a child questionnaire for every child under the age of 25 years (excluding family in law and including children who left the household less than 15 years ago) and a recall module if the household had not been part of the ICRISAT-VLS sample since 2001 (these recall data are available on request). I completed a village questionnaire with the assistance of the village head, three knowledgeable people in each village, the Mandal/Tehsil Revenue Office and the District Collector's Office and a school questionnaire with the assistance of the school principal for all schools in and near the villages.

Overview of the documents

Codebook (Enumerator manual is available on request)

Datasets following the structure in the Table below

ICRISAT-VLS Data		School data	Village Data
Child Questionnaire	Household Questionnaire		
Section VI.dta	Section I.dta	School.dta	General.Village.dta
Section VII.dta	Section II.dta		Household.Village.dta
	Section III.dta		Welfare.Village.dta
	Section IVA/B.dta		
	Section V.dta		
	Section VIII.dta		
	Section IXA/B.dta		