



# ***KEY ISSUES AND INTER-LINKAGES***

---

**Kunal Sen**

**University of Manchester**

***PRESENTATION TO “EMERGING ISSUES” PANEL:  
UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, 4<sup>TH</sup>  
FEB 2016***

# Moving from Commitment to Results

- How do we make sure that social development objectives are achieved in the 2030 Agenda?
- Which are the key areas of the 2030 Agenda that need attention from a social development perspective?
- What are the inter-linkages between the different dimensions that we need to address going forward?
- **FOCUS SHOULD NOW BE ON BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES, AS WELL AS WAYS TO INTEGRATE THEM BETTER.**

# Social Protection

Social protection policies now an integral part of anti-poverty programmes in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

We have now moved from advocacy (getting social protection on the “policy table”) to formulation and implementation.

**But implementation has been the challenge**, in the face of weak administrative capability and political commitment.

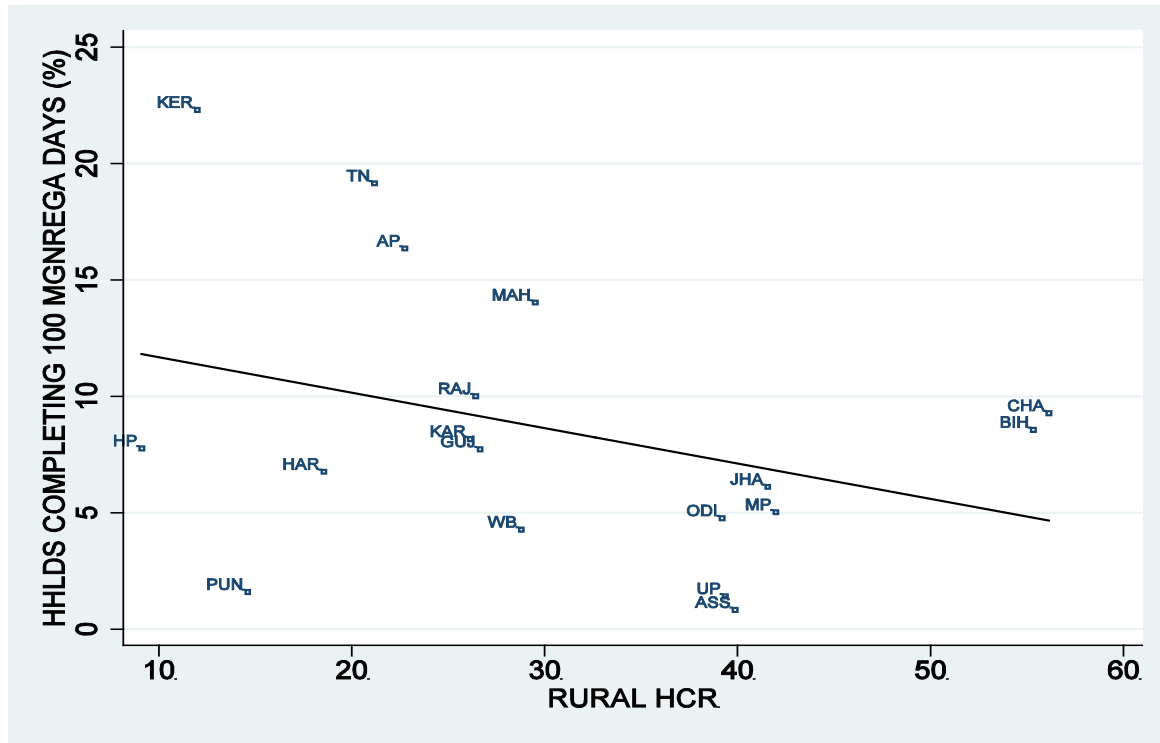
**Research from the Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) Research Centre, [www.effective-states.org](http://www.effective-states.org).**

# India's Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGA)

- Largest workfare programme in the world, covering over 50 million households.
- Right to employment (of 100 days at government stipulated wages) for rural households.
- Started in 2004, now in all districts of India.
- Implementation decentralised to local governments.
- ***Clear evidence that NREGA has reduced poverty, distress migration, increased agricultural wages, and may have even led to higher schooling and health outcomes among NREGA beneficiaries.***

# But the Implementation of NREGA has been Uneven

Surprisingly, poorer states in India have had weak NREGA outcomes



# Challenges to Better Implementation

- Weak political commitment to the scheme at the local level was an important reason for poor implementation.
- Administrative capacity mattered too, but political commitment often overcame the constraints of weak capacity.
- Stronger partnerships of civil society with state bureaucrats also mattered for better implementation.
- **KEY POLICY MESSAGE: CREATE BROAD POLICY COALITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION**

# Challenges to Better Implementation - Social Protection in Africa

- We looked at the determinants of policy formulation and implementation in five African countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia.
- **Political commitment to poverty reduction was key in better implementation.**
- But learning from each other and sharing policy successes mattered too.
- The role of donors also important – in creating constituencies of support and promoting and resourcing policy development.

# Key Interlinkage: Social Protection and Inclusive Growth Strategies

- Social protection programmes that created work and assets for the poor along with cash transfers had the most policy traction.
- They were also the most effective in including the poor in the growth process.
- **“Productivist” social protection programmes can help bring the economic and social dimensions of social development together.**