Yale *Inclusion Economics*

How can lower-income countries use policy to expand opportunity for all?

Healthy societies promote inclusion by distributing power and opportunity equitably, rather than reinforcing traditional exclusion and bias - and by protecting their most vulnerable citizens. Inclusion must be intentional: it is not guaranteed by strong economic growth, democratic elections, or even altruism. And it must be supported through informal institutions like families and communities, as well as formal ones like markets and states.

> Inclusion Economics is a policy-engaged research initiative enabling more inclusive and just economies and societies.

Inclusion Economics network's researchers ask how policy can promote inclusive and accountable programs, markets, and societies; and how citizens – including the vulnerable and marginalized – can gain influence to make these systems more responsive to their needs now and in the future.

Drawing insights from various disciplines, Inclusion Economics research focuses on a set of linked activities:

- Innovative data collection to identify who is failing to access resources they need, and the invisible social and power structures that constrain opportunity.
- High-quality research to understand how to promote and sustain inclusive and accountable economies and societies.
- Close engagement with stakeholders ranging from government officials and local researchers to marginalized individuals to ensure research addresses policy-relevant questions and provides timely insights.
- Communication of data-driven insights to shape narratives and understanding on inclusion.

Inclusion Economics at Yale University (YIE) is a collaboration between the Economic Growth Center and the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies.

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Inclusion Economics research focuses on questions core to future well-being:

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01 How can access to opportunities improve socioeconomic well-being in gender-unequal societies?

Women globally experience a wide variety of social and economic constraints that affect their well-being, including barriers to accessing jobs for which they are qualified and that they want; lower earnings than men; and restrictive gender norms that constrain their agency and mobility, limit their opportunities, and burden them with disproportionate caregiving responsibilities. Inclusion Economics maps these context-specific barriers and collaborates with policymakers and practitioners to test policies and programs designed to address them across various sectors. In India and Kenya, we test a variety of levers to promote women's digital inclusion. In Nepal, we ask whether better information empowers women to rise up the ranks of political leadership. In Kenya, we evaluate how extending public preschool to three-year-olds impacts women's economic empowerment.

02 How can countries ensure environmental sustainability and climate resilience?

All countries, affluent or poor, must grapple with how to maintain economic growth while encouraging environmental sustainability and mitigating the effects of increasingly frequent climate change related disasters. Our work on climate resilience currently focuses on India, which has one of the world's fastest-growing economies, has made ambitious climate commitments, and faces some of the highest risks of climate disasters – especially for the poor and vulnerable. We work in multiple Indian states to understand how to reduce pollution, promote climate disaster resilience, and operationalize market reforms to efficiently cut emissions. Many of the learnings from India will be relevant to climate mitigation and adaptation discussions around the globe, and we are currently building on this work within India and beyond.

03 How can public programs reach those who need them the most, but often have trouble accessing them?

Countries often launch impressive programs to serve the public and protect the vulnerable. Domestic spending decisions are critical in how well the poor can access opportunities for socio-economic advancement. We collaborate with central and state governments in India, Nepal, and Kenya to better understand domestic state spending priorities, align incentives within the public sector to deliver services most effectively and assist governments in working efficiently and productively in areas ranging from early childhood interventions to workfare program design.

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