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# Poverty Traps, Convergence, and the Dynamics of Household Income

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## Abstract

We design a new method to detect household poverty traps. We apply the method to a unique panel that follows rural Indian households over thirty years. We find no evidence of poverty traps. Most households had annual income growth of over 2 percent, and income mobility is high. We then design and apply a method to detect conditional convergence. We find that upper castes are converging to a level of wealth 3 times as high as disadvantaged castes.

**JEL Codes:** O15, E24, D31

**Keywords:** poverty trap, convergence, income mobility

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