

*Contemporary Issues and Ideas in Social Sciences*

*June 2006*

The current issue consists of three articles. The first is *Inequality Comparisons across Variable Populations* by S. Subramanian; the second *The Phenomenon of Voter Turnout in the Parliamentary Elections of India* by Sanmitra Ghosh and the third *Africa: Growth and Social Progress* by Manmohan Agarwal.

The article by Subramanian makes the point that apparently unexceptionable axioms of variable population inequality comparisons, such as the replication invariance property, can militate against other basic and intuitively plausible desiderata. He shows that there does not exist any quasi-ordering which can simultaneously satisfy Replication Invariance, Upper Pole Monotonicity and Weak Normalization.

The paper by Ghosh investigates the effect of closeness of elections on voter turnout, and attempts to explore new fiscal and demographic factors that might additionally explain the observed variation in voter turnout in the Indian context. Apart from putting to test the traditional *calculus of voting* theory, the paper tries to account for an interesting stylized fact: heterogeneity in demographic composition of an electorate results in significantly higher turnouts.

Agarwal in his paper analyzes African economic performance using a sources of growth model. The paper also contains a brief survey of the economic structure of Africa stressing the prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The paper also discusses the interaction of African countries with world economic institutions.

Comments from the readers are most welcome. Comments and suggestions can be emailed at:

editor@ciiss.net