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KEYNOTE PAPER

Structural Transformation and the Employment Problem in India

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ABSTRACT

What is the nature of the employment problem in India and how is it related to India's thwarted structural transformation? How do we conceptualize the structural transformation process, and is it a natural concomitant of economic growth? Is India an outlier to the traditional historical trajectory of structural transformation? What are the potential impediments to structural transformation in India? Is agriculture the residual sector or does it have a significant role in economic development? Does a broader view of structural change offer a wider menu of policy tools to spur economic growth? These are the motivating questions that this paper tries to grapple with. The paper itself is more in the nature of a discussion rather than a research paper, limited to offering a set of observations on these interrelated questions with some supportive data for India.





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Gaurav Datt is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Deputy Director of the Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability. Gaurav joined Monash University in August 2011. He has over twenty years of research and operational work experience in the development sector. He has worked in research positions at the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington D.C. Most recently, he worked at the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Department of the World Bank's East Asia and South Asia Regions based in Sydney and Kathmandu. Analysis of poverty, income distribution and social policy has been the primary focus of Gaurav's work. He has published widely in professional journals and authored several poverty assessment reports for the World Bank. His work encompasses a range of countries including India, China, Egypt, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

