

Subtheme: Security

Stream: Pension Design and Sustainability

Impact of pension rise in the State of Tamil Nadu, India, on the urban poor

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This paper sets out the impact of the State of Tamil Nadu raising the non-contributory old age pension from Rs400 to Rs1,000 per month in 2011 (ie from \$6.48 to \$16.21 at today's prices) on old age poverty. It describes how the increase is used, what difference it makes to older people's lives and how it can be improved. It addresses whether the pension rise is sufficient to release older people from the need to work, whether it takes them back to their pre-2008 position and to what extent the pension rise has increased older people's wellbeing, including control over their lives. The research is enabled by an original mixed methods project 2007-10, one element of which was an examination of the effect of the western financial crisis on Chennai's urban poor, including older people (published in *Economy and Society* 2013) and by a follow-up study in 2012-13.