

Subtheme: Security

Stream: Labour and Workforce Participation

Older people's contribution to family budgets and economy in India

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This paper demonstrates how older people's paid and unpaid work is bolstering family budgets and the national economy by releasing younger people into the work force, thereby supporting India's chances of realising a demographic dividend and participating as household labour in family businesses. Their work provides low-cost inputs to industry and low-cost services to the population, both of which contribute to India's place in the global market place. Further, older people explicitly describe their paid and unpaid work as contributing to family strategies to educate their children – strategies that place economic burdens on families (even state education is not free of costs, including opportunity costs) while advancing India's growth strategy.