IJMRRS

International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research, Review and Studies

Volume 1 - Issue 1

2024

A Tempestuous Triangle: Decoding the Impact of Rainfall Variations on Agriculture and Domestic Violence Against Women in India

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This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of *MSc in Development Economics* at the School of Economics, University of Nottingham.

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Abstract

Rainfall variations pose substantial difficulties for agrarian economies such as India and may have wider societal ramifications, including effects on domestic violence against women. Although prior studies have connected climate shock to agricultural output, its direct impact on domestic violence remains understudied. This study aimed to decode the impact of rainfall variations on both agricultural output and domestic violence against women in India. This research focuses on how deviations in rainfall influence these critical areas across a broad spectrum of Indian states and, more specifically, within six agriculturally significant states. The analysis seeks to explore not only the direct effects of climate shocks but also their indirect effects mediated through agricultural outcomes. Utilizing fixed-effects panel data regression analysis, this study examines data from 2001 to 2021 for 25 Indian states and six agriculturally significant states, controlling for net irrigated areas, agricultural credit, and social sector expenditure. The results indicate that although rainfall deviations significantly affect agricultural output indirectly, their direct impact on domestic violence across the 25 Indian states is minimal. In six agriculturally significant states, rainfall deviations considerably influenced agricultural output, but their direct effect on domestic violence remained statistically insignificant. This highlights that the link between rainfall deviations and domestic violence is mediated by agricultural productivity and is shaped by regional socioeconomic adaptations. This study highlights the nuanced relationship among rainfall variability, agriculture, and domestic violence. In contrast to their significant effects on agricultural output, the limited direct impact of rainfall deviations on domestic violence underscores the role of socio-economic adaptations and improvements in social norms and legal frameworks.

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Section 1. Introduction

In the context of a rapidly changing climate, the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of rainfall variability have become increasingly evident, particularly in developing nations, such as India, where agriculture plays a central role in the economy and rural livelihoods. Agriculture, which provides sustenance and employment for a significant portion of the population, is highly sensitive to climate patterns, particularly rainfall variability. As a result, fluctuations in annual and monsoon rainfall can lead to substantial disruptions in agricultural productivity, triggering economic instability and exacerbating social issues. One consequence that has garnered attention in recent literature is the link between climate shock and violence, particularly intimate partner violence (IPV). While the economic effects of climate-induced agricultural volatility are well documented, social implications, especially those related to domestic violence, remain an underexplored area of research.

This study aimed to assess the impact of rainfall variability on both agricultural output and domestic violence incidents in India, particularly deviations in annual and southwest monsoon rainfall. This research focuses on two distinct groups: a set of 25 Indian states and a subset of six agriculturally significant states—Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal— from 2001 to 2021. By examining how rainfall deviations influence agricultural output and domestic violence against women, this study seeks to fill a crucial gap in the existing literature, which often treats the economic and social consequences of climate change in isolation. The interdisciplinary nature of this research allows for a more nuanced understanding of how environmental stressors translate into socio-economic instability and, ultimately, household conflict.

The contribution of this study lies in its dual focus on agriculture and domestic violence, two critical areas that are deeply interconnected and rarely analyzed together in the context of rainfall variability. This research not only builds upon the existing literature on the economic impacts of climate change on agriculture but also extends the analysis to include the social dimension of domestic violence, providing empirical evidence of how rainfall-induced economic stress can exacerbate household tensions. By employing panel data regression analysis, this study quantifies the effects of rainfall deviations on both agricultural output and domestic violence, offering a regional perspective that is crucial for understanding the heterogeneity of these impacts across different Indian states. In particular, this study examines how varying levels of agricultural infrastructure, such as irrigation systems, influence the impact of rainfall variability in different states, highlighting the differential effects on agricultural output and domestic violence incidents.

Furthermore, this study contributes to policy discussions on climate adaptation and social protection by revealing how rainfall variability differentially affects agricultural output and domestic violence across various states. These findings highlight the importance of targeted policy interventions that address the economic and social impacts of climate variability. Specifically, this study underscores the need for policies that enhance agricultural resilience, such as investments in irrigation infrastructure and climate-resilient farming practices, as well as those that strengthen social protection systems for women. By identifying the varying impacts of climate shocks and the role of infrastructure in mitigating these effects, this study provides valuable insights for crafting comprehensive strategies aimed at alleviating agricultural decline and domestic violence in vulnerable regions.

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the intersection between rainfall variability, agriculture, and domestic violence. Section 2 presents a review of the relevant literature, and Section 3 discusses the theoretical frameworks that link climate variability[1] to both agricultural output and domestic violence. Section 4 outlines the empirical strategy employed in this study and details the methodology and data sources used for the analysis. Section 5 presents the results of the panel data regression analysis, followed by a discussion of the implications of these findings for both academic research and policy formulation in Section 6. Finally, Section 7 concludes with a reflection on the broader socio economic challenges posed by climate change in the agriculturally dependent regions of India and suggests avenues for future research.

By integrating the economic and social dimensions, this study provides critical insights into the far-reaching effects of rainfall variability, particularly in the context of developing economies such as India. By focusing on the impacts of rainfall deviations on agricultural output and domestic violence, this study offers a novel contribution to the literature and underscores the need for comprehensive region-specific policy responses to address the socio-economic consequences of climate change.

[1] Rainfall variability is a component of climate variability, but climate variability includes additional factors beyond just rainfall patterns.

Section 2. Literature Review

Research examining the intersection of climate variability, agricultural output, and domestic violence spans multiple disciplines and reveals complex relationships influenced by a variety of socio-economic and environmental factors. While significant progress has been made in understanding the individual impacts of climate shocks on agriculture and domestic violence, there remains a critical gap in analysing how these two domains interact, especially in regions that are dependent on agriculture for both livelihoods and
social stability.

Previous studies have established a strong link between climate variability and agricultural output. Auffhammer and Schlenker (2014) used dynamic panel models and demonstrated that deviations in rainfall, particularly negative deviations, significantly reduced crop yields. Lobell et al. (2011) further confirmed this by applying spatial and temporal fixed effects, showing that crop yields are highly sensitive to rainfall variability, which can undermine agricultural productivity and food security. The literature agrees that the agricultural sector, particularly in developing regions, is highly vulnerable to climatic fluctuations, making rainfall deviation a critical factor in assessing agricultural resilience.

When it comes to the relationship between climate shocks and domestic violence, studies like Devries et al. (2013) have drawn connections between extreme weather events and increased social tension, which may lead to higher rates of domestic violence. Using cross sectional data, they found that droughts and other climatic stressors exacerbated already fragile social conditions, creating stress that can contribute to intimate partner violence. Maccini and Yang (2009), employing instrumental variable (IV) techniques, explored how economic hardship induced by climate shocks can indirectly lead to domestic violence, especially in regions with weak socio-economic support systems. Caruso (2011) observed similar trends in a fixed-

effects analysis, noting that economic opportunities and social safety nets can buffer the adverse effects of climate shock on domestic violence.

Although the literature provides useful insights into the individual impacts of climate shocks, several limitations are evident. First, studies on domestic violence and climate variability tend to rely heavily on cross-sectional or single-period data (Devries et al., 2013; Caruso, 2011), which limits their ability to capture long-term trends and regional variations. The relationship between climate shocks and domestic violence is often presented as a generalisable phenomenon, but the role of context-specific factors, such as socioeconomic conditions, gender norms, and policy environments, remain under-explored.

Moreover, while the link between rainfall deviations and agricultural output is well established (Auffhammer & Schlenker, 2014; Lobell et al., 2011), the existing literature does not adequately consider the feedback loop between agricultural decline and social outcomes, including domestic violence. This feedback loop is particularly relevant in agrarian economies, where a decline in agricultural productivity may lead to economic strain, heightened stress, and increased vulnerability to domestic violence. Few studies (Burke et al., 2015; Maccini & Yang, 2009) touch on this relationship, and those that often lack sufficient empirical rigour or rely on methodologies that are not well-suited to capturing long-term effects.

A critical gap in the literature lies in the intersection of climate variability, agricultural output, and domestic violence. While much has been reported on these factors individually, the complex ways in which they interact, especially in the context of agricultural economies, is largely under-explored. Limited research has examined how declines in agricultural output due to rainfall deviations may contribute to increased domestic violence, creating a dual threat to both economic stability and social well-being. This gap is particularly pressing for

regions such as India, where agriculture plays a vital role in both the economy and household dynamics, and where climate shocks, including rainfall variability, are becoming increasingly frequent.

Moreover, many studies employ techniques such as cross-sectional regression (Devries et al., 2013) or fixed-effects models that fail to fully address time-varying shocks (Caruso, 2011). However, these approaches may not adequately capture the complex and dynamic nature of these relationships over extended periods. In contrast, this study utilizes panel data regression with fixed effects as its primary analytical tool, enabling a more comprehensive examination of long-term and regional differences. Fixed effects are particularly appropriate for investigating the connection between rainfall-induced shocks and socioeconomic outcomes across various states over a substantial timeframe (2001– 2021), as they account for unobservable, time-invariant heterogeneity. This methodology also facilitates a more precise estimation of how time-varying factors, such as rainfall deviations, affect both agricultural production and domestic violence while considering regional characteristics.

The relationship between rainfall variability, agricultural output, and domestic violence is not just an academic concern; it also has profound implications for policy and practice. By exploring how these variables interact in agrarian economies, this study contributes to broader discussions of climate adaptation, rural development, and social protection. Understanding these dynamics is particularly relevant in the context of India, where climate-induced agricultural vulnerability and gender-based violence are both pressing challenges. The findings of this study will not only fill an important gap in the literature, but also offer critical insights for policymakers aiming to develop targeted interventions that enhance agricultural resilience and provide social safety nets for vulnerable populations, especially women.

In conclusion, this study contributes to the broader field of climate change research by linking it with both agricultural and social outcomes, offering a comprehensive analysis of the dual threats posed by climate variability in agrarian societies. Through its focus on the Indian context, it aims to generate practical insights that can inform policy formulation, addressing both agricultural resilience and gender-based violence in vulnerable communities.

Section 3. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is grounded in the interplay among climate variability (including rainfall variability), agricultural productivity, and domestic violence. This framework integrates insights from environmental economics, socioeconomic theory, and empirical studies to understand how deviations in rainfall impact these variables and their interrelationships.

Climate Variability and Agricultural Productivity: The relationship between climate variability and agricultural productivity is well-documented. Deviations in rainfall, particularly droughts and excessive precipitation, have been shown to significantly affect crop yield. Auffhammer and Schlenker (2014) demonstrated that negative deviations in rainfall can lead to substantial reductions in agricultural output, a finding corroborated by Lobell et al. (2011), who highlighted the critical role of rainfall variability in determining crop yield. These studies established a direct link between rainfall deviations and agricultural productivity, consequently affecting the output. Hence, the sensitivity of agricultural systems to climatic change should be underscored.

The impact of climate variability on agriculture is further contextualized by the work of Maccini and Yang (2009), who found that social and economic support systems can

moderate the effects of rainfall deviations on agricultural productivity. This moderation suggests that while climate shocks have a measurable impact on agriculture, the extent of this impact can be influenced by existing socioeconomic conditions and support structures.

Socioeconomic Stress and Domestic Violence: The influence of climate shock on domestic violence is complex and context-dependent. Devries et al. (2013) highlighted that extreme weather events, such as droughts, can exacerbate social tensions and contribute to increased domestic violence. This aligns with the findings of Burke et al. (2015), who observed that climatic shocks can elevate domestic violence rates, although the relationship is moderated by various socioeconomic factors.

Caruso (2011) and Schlenker and Lobell (2010) further emphasize that the presence of social safety nets and economic opportunities can mitigate the adverse effects of climate shocks on domestic violence. Caruso (2011) suggested that in regions with robust support systems, the impact of climatic stress on domestic violence is less pronounced. This is supported by the broader socio economic literature, which indicates that economic stress and financial instability are significant contributors to domestic violence (Peterman et al., 2015; Tiwari et al., 2021).

Integration of variables and theoretical justification: The theoretical framework integrates these insights by exploring how climate variability influences domestic violence through its effects on agricultural productivity. The inclusion of variables, such as annual rainfall deviations and agricultural output, in the analysis is supported by the empirical findings of Auffhammer and Schlenker (2014) and Devries et al. (2013). By examining the direct and indirect impacts of rainfall variability on both agricultural output and domestic violence, this framework provides a comprehensive understanding of these interrelationships.

This approach is informed by the need to address gaps in the literature, particularly the limited focus on the intersection of agricultural output and domestic violence in response to rainfall variability. Previous studies have predominantly examined the effects of climate variability on agricultural productivity or domestic violence in isolation, with less emphasis on their combined effects. The proposed study seeks to fill this gap by using panel data regression to concurrently analyze the impact of rainfall variability on both agricultural output and domestic violence. This approach offers a sophisticated understanding of the effect of rainfall-related factors on these variables and their relationships.

Section 4: Empirical Strategy

The empirical strategy employed in this study involves a comprehensive analysis of panel data using fixed-effects regression models to examine the effects of rainfall variability on agricultural output and domestic violence against women in India. This methodology was chosen to account for both state-specific characteristics and temporal variations, thereby offering a robust framework for understanding the intricate relationships between the variables of interest. The following sections outline the data description, summary statistics, methods, and model specifications.

4.1 Data Collection and Preparation

The data for this study cover the period from 2001 to 2021 and include information from 25 Indian states, with a specific focus on a subset of six agriculturally significant states. The data sources were the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) for rainfall data, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for agricultural output, and the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for domestic violence incidents. These sources were

selected for their reliability and comprehensiveness. The captured data were both relevant and accurate.

To ensure the integrity and comparability of the data, several preprocessing steps were performed, such as cleaning and adjusting the variables to account for regional and historical variations. Rainfall deviations were calculated as the percentage difference between the actual and historical average rainfall, encompassing both annual totals and the southwest (SW) monsoon periods. This method allows for a standardized measure of rainfall variability. Agricultural output is measured by the total food grain production, including key crops (non-food grains), such as oilseeds and sugarcane. Domestic violence incident data are derived from various forms of reported violence against women, as documented by the NCRB.

Data cleaning and adjustment are critical to ensure that the accuracy stops missing values, and outlier inconsistencies are addressed to maintain data quality. Accuracy of historical rainfall data is a notable potential limitation because of the representativeness of domestic violence reporting. To mitigate these issues, comprehensive data sources were utilized, and rigorous analytical techniques were applied. This includes adjustments for regional and historical variations to enhance the comparability of the data across states and years.

4.2 Summary Statistics

The summary statistics provide a foundational understanding of the dataset used in this research, offering insights into the central tendencies, variability, and relationships among the key variables. The following sections detail the descriptive statistics, correlation matrix, and frequency tables used to analyze the data.

4.2.1. Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics for the key variables in the dataset, including mean, median, standard deviation, and minimum and maximum values, are presented in Table 1. These statistics

provide an overview of the central tendencies and variability within the dataset for both the 25 Indian states and the subset of the six agriculturally significant states.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics (25 States and 6 States)					
Variable	**Number of States**	**Mean**	**Std. Dev.**	**Min**	**Max**
Domestic Violence Incidents	25	5,644.10	6,858.30	1	35,811
	6	10513.82	8253.69	1179	33103
Agricultural Output (thousand tonnes)	25	22,472.65	38,692.97	20.7	237,722.40
	6	66837.19	57608.95	15851.5	237722.4
Annual Rainfall Deviation (%)	25	0.00375	17.994	-61.21	53.63
	6	0.0007937	19.80467	-58.14	53.64
SW Monsoon Rainfall Deviation (%)	25	-0.00032	13.433	-34.56	31.57
	6	0.0199206	14.08784	-34. 56	31.57
Net Irrigated Area (thousand hectares)	25	2387.606	3219.562	9	14392
	6	5002.889	3912. 995	2148	14392
Credit to Agriculture by Scheduled Commercial Banks (crores)	25	19876.36	32165.37	0	223007
	6	48578.56	45823. 96	1400	223007
Social Sector Expenditure (crores)	25	21638.56	28806.22	0	174631
	6	44964.93	41946.01	2990	193467

These statistics illustrate the general distribution of rainfall deviations, agricultural output, and domestic violence incidents, alongside financial metrics related to agriculture and social expenditure. The means reflect the average values, whereas the standard deviations indicate the extent of variability within the dataset.

4.2.2. Correlation Matrix

The Correlation Matrix for both models, representing 25 Indian states and a subset of 6 agriculturally significant states, is provided in Table 2. These matrices help identify the strength and direction of the relationships between the key variables used in the regression analysis.

Table 2: Correlation Matrix for Indian States (25 States and 6 States)								
Variables	Number of States	Domestic Violence	Agricultural Output	Annual Rainfall Deviation	SW Monsoon Rainfall Deviation	Net Irrigated Area	Credit to Agriculture by Scheduled Banks	Social Sector Expenditure
Domestic Violence	25	1	0.5982	0.0397	0.012	0.6602	0.543	0.7095
	6	1	0.5367	0.0401	0.0222	0.4353	0.2026	0.6465
Agricultural Output	25	0.5982	1	0.0126	0.0112	0.8293	0.5503	0.5951
	6	0.5367	1	0.0198	0.0273	0.9036	0.2935	0.4531
Annual Rainfall Deviation	25	0.0397	0.0126	1	0.5692	0.026	0.1384	0.1304
	6	0.0401	0.0198	1	0.6042	0.0106	0.2461	0.2013
SW Monsoon Rainfall Deviation	25	0.012	0.0112	0.5692	1	0.0174	0.1365	0.1139
	6	0.0222	0.0273	0.6042	1	0.025	0.2365	0.1752
Net Irrigated Area	25	0.6602	0.8293	0.026	0.0174	1	0.5285	0.5493
	6	0.4353	0.9036	0.0106	0.025	1	0.1639	0.2584
Credit to Agriculture by Scheduled Commercial Banks	25	0.543	0.5503	0.1384	0.1365	0.5285	1	0.8609
	6	0.2026	0.2935	0.2461	0.2365	0.1639	1	0.7881
Social Sector Expenditure	25	0.7095	0.5951	0.1304	0.1139	0.5493	0.8609	1
	6	0.6465	0.4531	0.2013	0.1752	0.2584	0.7881	1

In the 25 Indian states analysis, moderate correlations were observed between *domestic violence incidents* and *net irrigated areas* (0.66), as well as between *Domestic Violence Incidents* and *Social Sector Expenditure* (0.71). Additionally, a strong correlation between *Credit to Agriculture* and *Social Sector Expenditure* (0.86) suggests potential multicollinearity, which may require further diagnostic testing such as the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF).

In the six agriculturally significant states, the correlations generally followed a similar pattern; however, the strength of the relationships was slightly weaker. For instance, the correlation between *the Net Irrigated Area* and *Credit to Agriculture* is reduced to 0.55, although this still indicates a notable relationship. While some correlations are significant, others are weak, indicating that the impacts might be limited or influenced by additional factors that are not captured in the correlation matrix. The results suggest that certain variables, such as agricultural output and social sector expenditure, have moderate to strong correlations with domestic violence. However, the statistical significance within the model varies, underscoring

the importance of a thorough interpretation within the context of the empirical analysis. The correlation matrices indicated no significant correlations among most variables, except between *the Net Irrigated Area* and *Credit to Agriculture,* thus reducing the risk of multicollinearity in the models.

The combined analysis of the descriptive statistics and correlation matrices offers a thorough examination of the dataset. This comprehensive approach revealed crucial information about data centrality, relationships between variables, and the distribution of metrics. Such insights are fundamental for accurately interpreting the results of fixed effects regression analysis.

4.3 Variable Selection and Modifications

The selection of variables in this study was informed by both theoretical considerations and empirical evidence. Key factors such as *agricultural output*, *rainfall deviations (annual rainfall and SW monsoon rainfall deviations)*, *net irrigated area*, *credit to agriculture*, and *social sector expenditure* were included based on their demonstrated significance in socioeconomic and environmental analyses. For instance, studies have highlighted the importance of agricultural output and irrigation in influencing economic and social outcomes, particularly in agrarian economies (Mason 2005; Steele, Amin, and Naved 1998). The inclusion of 'social sector expenditure' is further supported by literature due to its critical role in enhancing socio-economic development and welfare (Nessa, Ali, and Abdul-Hakim 2012).

To ensure the accuracy and robustness of the analysis, modifications were made to address specific challenges, particularly multicollinearity and data consistency. No significant multicollinearity issues were detected in the analysis of the 25 states. The mean Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) for all variables remained at approximately 3, which is within acceptable

limits. Nevertheless, in the analysis encompassing six agriculturally significant states, multicollinearity issues were observed, particularly concerning *agricultural output* and *net irrigated areas*. The Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) for agricultural output in this subset reached 7.79, while the Net Irrigated Area exhibited a high VIF of 6.55, indicating multicollinearity, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Multicollinearity Test

Variable	VIF	1/VIF
Agricultural Output	7.79	0.1284
Net Irrigated Area	6.55	0.1526
Social Sector Expenditure	3.47	0.2884
Credit to Agriculture	2.77	0.3609
Annual Rainfall Deviation	1.61	0.6209
SW Monsoon Rainfall Deviation	1.6	0.6253
Mean VIF	3.96	

Consequently, the 'net irrigated area' variable was excluded from Model 1 to prevent an estimation bias.

The variables were utilized in their original form, with the exception of 'rainfall deviations', which were calculated as percentages relative to the historical averages and 'domestic violence incidences' which represents the aggregate of several types of offenses related to violence against women (such as Dowry Deaths, Abetment to Suicide of Women, Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives, Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty, Insult to the Modesty of Women). Furthermore, the units and scaling of the variables lacked consistency across different measures, such as Agricultural Output (in thousands of tons), Credit to Agriculture by Scheduled Commercial Banks (crores), and domestic violence incidents. This inconsistency arises because of the absence of a standardized baseline measure for

conversion. Multicollinearity and other relevant statistical tests were conducted to address this issue.

In terms of sample selection, certain states were excluded from analysis for specific reasons. Sikkim was excluded due to the unavailability of data for certain years, which would have compromised the consistency across the time series. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana necessitated careful consideration, as Telangana became a separate state in 2014, introducing significant data discrepancies for the pre and post-2014 periods. Jammu & Kashmir were excluded because of their reorganization in 2019 under Article 370, which resulted in the formation of two Union Territories: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Political and administrative changes during this period led to inconsistent data reporting for the region.

These exclusions enhanced the validity and generalizability of the findings. The decision to exclude these states ensured that the dataset remained consistent and representative of the broader national patterns. This approach to rigorous sample selection has been corroborated by other empirical studies (Ramesh et al. 2020; Peterman et al. 2015).

4.4 Research Methodology and Model Specification

This section delineates the methodology and model specifications used to assess the impact of rainfall variability on domestic violence against women and agricultural output across Indian states. This methodology addresses both the theoretical and empirical aspects of the study by leveraging fixed-effects panel data regression to explore the complex interactions between rainfall variability, agricultural output, and socioeconomic outcomes.

4.4.1 Methodological Framework

This study employed a fixed-effects panel data regression model to capture the effects of rainfall deviations on agricultural output and domestic violence. This approach is particularly suited for controlling unobserved heterogeneity and state-specific characteristics that could otherwise bias results. By focusing on within-state variations over time, the fixed-effects model allows for a nuanced understanding of how rainfall induced shocks impact the dependent variables, while accounting for state-specific and temporal factors.

The research design is correlational, examining the relationship between rainfall-induced shocks (rainfall deviations) and the dependent variable (agricultural output and domestic violence incidents) without manipulating the variables or assigning causal interventions. The data analysis techniques involved fixed-effects panel data regression models, which are well-suited for handling the longitudinal nature of the data and addressing the research questions by controlling for state-specific and temporal effects.

In addition to the primary fixed effects analysis, cluster-Robert standard errors were employed to account for potential correlations within cluster antiques, ensuring that the standard errors were robust to heteroskedasticity and within-cluster correlation. Lagged variables for rainfall shocks were also included to examine the potential delayed effects of rainfall variability on agricultural output and domestic violence. This approach allows us to capture the temporal dynamics of rainfall shocks and their impact over time. The initial analyses involved simple regression models to establish foundational relationships. Random effect models were tested using the Breusch-Pagan Lagrangian multiplier test, which indicated that fixed effects were more appropriate for the data. The incorporation of lagged rainfall deviations and the use of

cluster-robust standard errors further refined the analysis, ensuring that the results were both robust and reflective of temporal effects.

Previous research often relies on simpler OLS regression methods or cross-sectional data, which may not fully account for the complexities of within-state variations and unobserved heterogeneity (Nessa, Ali, and Abdul-Hakim 2012; Maru and Chemjor 2013). These methods, while useful in broad analyses, may overlook state-specific effects and temporal dynamics that are critical to this study's focus. Fixed-effects models, as advocated by Mason (2005) and Steele, Amin, and Naved (1998), are employed here to better control for these factors and offer more robust insights into the relationships under investigation.

4.4.2 Model Specifications and Variable Details

The fixed-effects regression models in this study were designed to analyze the impact of rainfall deviations on agricultural output and domestic violence incidents across Indian states. These models incorporate relevant control variables and are tailored to address the specific challenges encountered in the analysis, particularly the issues of multicollinearity in a subset of states.

Model 1: Impact on Agricultural Output

Model 1 is formulated to evaluate the effects of rainfall deviations on agricultural output. This includes controls for net irrigated areas, credit to agriculture, and social sector expenditure. The model **(Equation 1)** is specified as follows:

$$\text{Agricultural Output}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Rainfall Deviation}_{it} + \beta_2 \text{Net Irrigated Area}_{it} + \beta_3 \text{Credit to Agriculture}_{it} + \beta_4 \text{Social Sector Expenditure}_{it} + \beta_5 \text{Rainfall}_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

In this model:

- $Annual\ Rainfall\ Deviation_{it}$ represents the deviation of annual rainfall from the historical average of the state i in year t.

- $SW\ Monsoon\ Rainfall\ Deviation_{it}$ captures the deviations in the southwest monsoon rainfall.

  These are the **key independent variables** of interest for measuring the impact of rainfall deviations on the agricultural output.

- $Net\ Irrigated\ Area$ where represents the proportion of irrigated agricultural land.
- $Credit\ to\ Agriculture$ measures the financial resources available for agricultural activity.
- $Social\ Sector\ Expenditure$ reflects government spending on social programmes. These were the **control variables**, which were meant to isolate the effect of the independent variables by accounting for factors that could influence the dependent variable.
- μ_i represents the state-specific fixed effect, which accounts for the unobserved time-invariant characteristics of each state.
- ε_{it} is an error term that accounts for random. shocks and unobserved time-varying factors that affect the dependent variable.

For the analysis of all 25 states, this model is well suited to explore how deviations in rainfall impact agricultural output while controlling for irrigation, credit, and social expenditure. The fixed-effects approach helps account for within-state variations over time.

Model 2: Impact on Domestic Violence

Model 2 explores the effects of agricultural output and rainfall deviations on domestic violence incidents, controlling for net irrigated areas, credit to agriculture, and social sector expenditure. The Model **(Equation 2)** is as follows:

$$\text{Domestic Violence}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Agricultural Output}_{it} + \beta_2 \text{Annual Rainfall Deviation}_{it} + \beta_3 \text{SW Monsoon Rainfall Deviation}_{it} + \beta_4 \text{Net Irrigated Area}_{it} + \beta_5 \text{Credit to Agriculture}_{it} + \beta_6 \text{Social Sector Expenditure}_{it} + \mu_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

In this model:

- $Agricultural\ Output_{it}$ refers to total foodgrain production including oilseeds and sugarcane (non-food grains)
- $Annual\ Rainfall\ Deviation_{it}$ and $SW\ Monsoon\ Rainfall\ Deviation_{it}$ and are defined in Model 1, and are the *key independent variables* of interest, measuring the impact on domestic violence
- $Domestic\ \ Violence_{it}$ as the dependent variable, represents the sum of several types of offenses related to violence against women
- $Net\ Irrigated\ Area, Credit\ to\ Agriculture,$ and $Social\ \ Sector\ Expenditure$ were included in a similar manner
- μ_i captures state-specific fixed effects
- ε_{it} is the error term

To analyse all 25 states, this model evaluates how agricultural output and rainfall deviations influence domestic violence incidents, accounting for key socioeconomic controls.

Adjustments for six-state analysis: In the analysis of the six agriculturally significant states, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, adjustments were necessary due to multicollinearity issues. Specifically, the high variance inflation factor (VIF) for *the Net Irrigated Area* indicates potential multicollinearity with *Agricultural Output*. To address this, *Net Irrigated Area* was excluded as a control variable in Model 2 for these states.

The revised model **(Equation 3)** is as follows:

$$Domestic\ Violence_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1\, Agricultural\ Output_{it} + \beta_2\, Annual\ Rainfall\ Deviation_{it} + \beta_3\, SW\ Monsoon\ \ Rainfall\ \ Deviation_{it} + \beta_4\, Credit\ to\ Agriculture_{it} + \beta_5\, Social\ Sector\ Expenditure_{it} + \mu_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

In this revised model:

- $Annual\ Rainfall\ Deviation_{it}$ and $SW\ Monsoon\ Rainfall\ Deviation_{it}$ remained the same, as previously described
- $Net\ Irrigated\ Area_{it}$ were excluded because of multicollinearity concerns (shown in Figure 1.)
- $Credit\ to\ Agriculture$ and $Social\ \ Sector\ Expenditure$ continue to serve as control variables
- μ_i captures state-specific fixed effects
- ε_{it} is the error term.

This adjustment ensures a more reliable analysis by mitigating multicollinearity issues and providing a clearer assessment of how rainfall deviations impact agricultural output in these states.

Overall, these models are designed to provide a comprehensive analysis of how rainfall deviations affect both agricultural productivity and domestic violence, while controlling for key socioeconomic factors. The use of a fixed-effects regression allows for a detailed examination of within-state variations, enhancing the robustness of the findings.

Section 5. Regression Results

5.1 Results for 25 Indian states

The fixed-effects regression analysis for the 25 Indian states from 2001 to 2021 provides nuanced insights into the relationships between

rainfall deviations, agricultural factors, and social outcomes. This analysis is particularly informed by the coefficient plots and residual diagnostics accompanying the fixed-effects results. Here, we focus on the key findings from both Model 1 and Model 2, discussing the significant impacts and implications while also acknowledging the robustness checks performed.

5.1.1 Results for 25 states

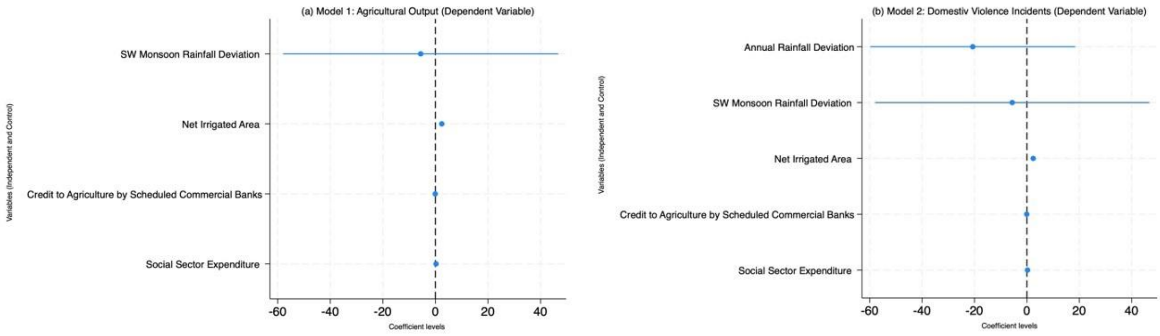
Model 1 examines agricultural output as the dependent variable, using **(Equation1).** Coefficient plot (a) highlights that *net irrigated area* is positively and significantly associated with agricultural output and has a strong positive coefficient of 2.4144 ($p = 0.000$), suggesting that an increase in irrigated land leads to a 2.41-unit rise in agricultural output. Specifically, a 1% increase in net irrigated area was associated with an approximately

0.8% increase in agricultural output. This underscores the critical role of irrigation infrastructure in enhancing productivity (particularly in states with irregular rainfall patterns), which is consistent with the existing literature emphasising the importance of water availability for agricultural success (Kumar et al., 2018). In contrast, *the SW monsoon rainfall deviation* showed a weak relationship with agricultural output, with the coefficient being close to zero(0.6790). This indicates the minimal impact of monsoon variability on agricultural productivity, which might reflect adaptation strategies or other mitigating factors that are not fully captured by the model.

Interestingly, *credit to agriculture* exhibits a negative coefficient (-0.0571), suggesting that an increase in credit is associated with a decrease in agricultural output. Although statistically insignificant, this finding is counterintuitive and may suggest inefficiencies in credit utilisation or economic conditions that could hinder effective investment in agriculture. *However, social sector expenditure* has a positive relationship with agricultural output, with a coefficient of 0.2542 ($p = 0.000$), indicating that a 1% increase in expenditure corresponds to a 0.5% increase in output. This suggests that investment in social welfare can positively influence agricultural productivity/output, likely through improved rural infrastructure and education.

Coefficient Plots

Model 1. (a) Model 2. (b)



Model 2 (b), which focuses on domestic violence incidents as the dependent variable, uncovers some notable results. The fixed-effects regression **(Equation 2)** The results reveal that *agricultural output* has a positive and statistically significant effect on domestic violence incidents, with a coefficient of 0.0773, suggesting that a one-unit increase in agricultural output is associated with a 7.73% increase in domestic violence incidents. This is further related to the *net irrigated area*, which also has a positive and statistically significant effect on domestic violence incidents, with a coefficient suggesting that a 1% increase in irrigated area is associated with an approximately 0.7% increase in incidents. This finding reflects a complex interplay where increased irrigation, while potentially boosting agricultural output, may also introduce socio-economic pressures that exacerbate domestic tensions.

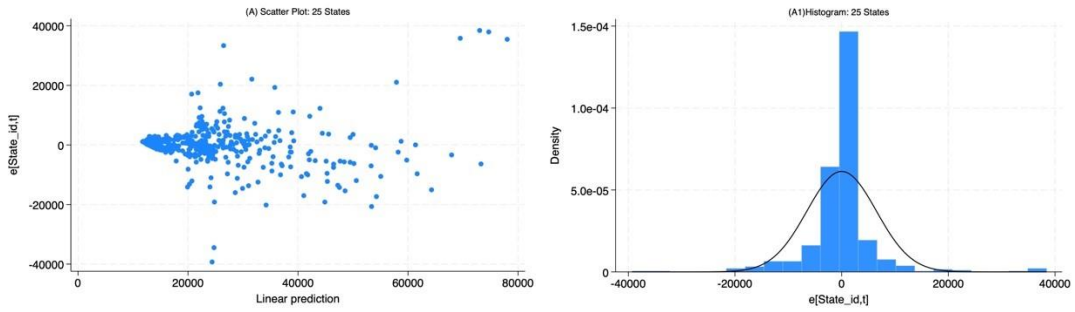
Annual rainfall deviation and *SW monsoon rainfall deviation* exhibit less positive and negative coefficients, respectively, indicating that higher deviations from historical rainfall patterns are associated with a reduction in domestic violence incidents. Although these coefficients are not statistically significant at the 10% level, they suggest a potential trend in which deviations from typical rainfall patterns could influence social outcomes, potentially through changes in economic stability or social stress. The lack of statistical significance suggests that these

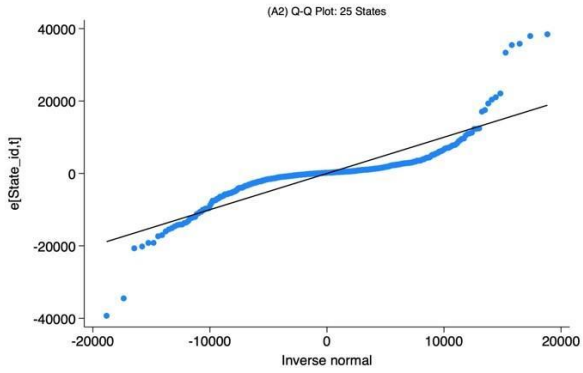
relationships may be sensitive to other unobserved factors or require more precise measurements to fully capture their impact.

Credit to agriculture shows a negative coefficient in Model 2, indicating a potential inverse relationship with domestic violence. However, this effect was not statistically significant, suggesting that increased agricultural credit does not have a substantial or consistent impact on domestic violence within the dataset. Finally, *Social sector expenditure* reveals a positive and statistically significant coefficient, with a 1% increase in expenditure correlating with a 0.9% increase in domestic violence incidents. This significant relationship may reflect improved reporting mechanisms or the unintended social consequences of certain welfare programs in the states.

5.1.2 Residual Diagnostics and Model Robustness

Residual diagnostics provide further insights into model behavior. The scatter plots of residuals, shown in Graph (A) for these models, indicate no clear patterns, suggesting that the models adequately capture the relationships between variables without severe issues of heteroscedasticity. Although a few outliers are present, particularly in the upper right corner, they do not substantially undermine the models' estimates.





The histograms of the residuals, shown in Graph (A1), reveal slight skewness to the right, indicating the presence of some extreme values. Despite minor deviations from normality, the residuals behave reasonably well, as corroborated by the Q-Q plots in Graph (A2), which show residuals close to the 45-degree line. These diagnostics support the robustness of the fixed-effects results, although they also highlight areas for potential refinement in future research.

Furthermore, the regression results, as shown in Table 3, provide insights into the impact of rainfall variability and other agricultural factors on domestic violence incidents and agricultural output.

Table 3. Regression results for Rainfall Variability (25 Indian states)

Dependent Variables	Model 1: Agricultural Output	Model 2: Domestic Violence Incident	Significance level
Independent Variables			
Annual Rainfall Deviation	-20.67 (0.30)	5.69 (0.48)	p >10%
SW Monsoon Rainfall Deviation	-5.59 (0.83)	-17.78 (0.10)	p >10%
Net Irrigated Area	2.41 (0.000)**	-0.19 (0.38)	1%, p >10%
Credit to Agriculture	-0.057 (0.026)*	-0.016 (0.12)	5% , p >10%
Social Sector Expenditure	0.25 (0.000)**	0.095 (0.000)**	1%
Agricultural Output	-	0.08 (0.000)**	1%
Constant (_cons)	12,342.5 (0.000)**	2,636.42 (0.000)**	1%
N	525	525	
Number of Groups	25	25	
R- squared	0.3917	0.4012	
F-statistics	63.75	55.16	

Note: ** and * denote statistical significance at 1% and 5% levels respectively. The table shows the estimated coefficients (β) for each variable for Model 1 (Agricultural Output) and Model 2 (Domestic Violence Incident) represented in (Equation 2) and (Equation 1) respectively, from section 4 under Model Specifications and Variable Details. The values in parentheses represnts p-values. In Model 1 (Agricultural Output), Net Irrigated Area, Credit to Agriculture, and Social Sector Expenditure significantly affect agricultural output, with the Net Irrigated Area and Social Sector Expenditure having positive impacts, while Credit to Agriculture shows a negative effect whereas in Model 2 (Domestic Violence Incident), Agricultural Output has a significant positive effect, while Social Sector Expenditure also shows a significant positive relationship with domestic violence incidents.

Focusing on the two models, the results for the 25 Indian states reveal that *rainfall deviations* have no significant impact on agricultural output or domestic violence. However, *the net*

irrigated area significantly boosts agricultural productivity (p-value of 0.000), whereas its effect on domestic violence is not significant. *Social sector expenditure* positively influences both agricultural output and domestic violence (p = 0.000), indicating a broad impact. *Credit to agriculture* negatively affects agricultural output (p-value of 0.026), but does not significantly impact domestic violence. *Agricultural output* itself significantly correlates with *domestic violence* (p-value of 0.000), highlighting socioeconomic tensions.

Hence, the analysis underscores the significant finding that while rainfall deviations are not impactful, irrigation and social sector spending are critical for agricultural productivity. The significant link between agricultural output and domestic violence suggests a complex socioeconomic interaction. Furthermore, regarding the influence of agricultural and social factors on domestic violence and agricultural output, the net irrigated area and social sector expenditure emerged as key determinants. The positive association between irrigation and agricultural output and the significant effects of social sector expenditure on both domestic violence and agricultural output highlight the intricate interactions between economic and social variables.

5.2 Results for 6 agriculturally significant states

Now, the regression analysis, focusing on the *six agriculturally significant Indian states—Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal*—provides a detailed understanding of how various factors impact agricultural output and domestic violence incidents. This analysis predominantly relies on the fixed-effects model supplemented by robustness checks using random-effects models, pooled OLS, and diagnostic evaluations to ensure the reliability of the findings.

5.2.1 Results for 6 states

In **Model 1**, where agricultural output was the dependent variable, the fixed-effects regression **(Equation 1)** revealed the nuanced impacts of rainfall deviations and other factors. The coefficients for *the annual rainfall deviation* and *SW monsoon rainfall deviation* were -24.6346 ($p = 0.742$) and -26.0060 ($p = 0.805$), respectively. These negative results, as shown in the coefficient plot (c), suggest that a one-unit deviation in annual rainfall is associated with a decrease of approximately 24.63 units in agricultural output, but this finding should be interpreted with caution due to its insignificance. Therefore, neither type of rainfall deviation significantly affects agricultural output despite indicating potential decreases in output. The lack of statistical significance implies substantial variability and uncertainty regarding the effects of rainfall-induced shocks on the agricultural output.

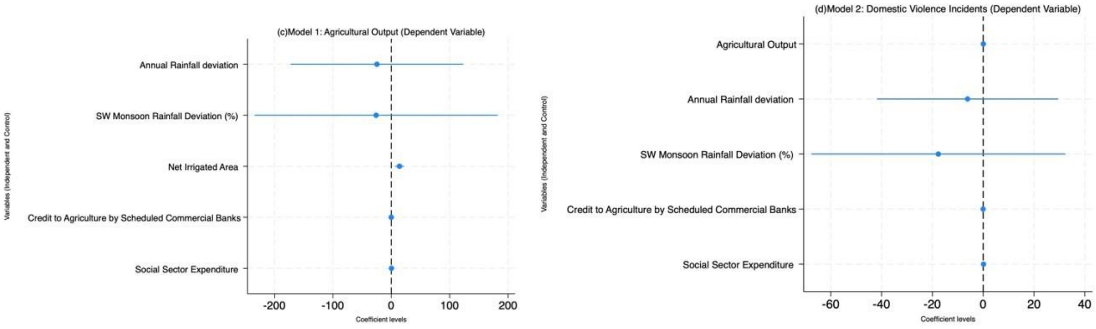
Conversely, *net irrigated area* is a significant predictor of agricultural output. The fixed effects model showed a coefficient of 14.0136 ($p < 0.001$), indicating a robust positive relationship. This suggests that each additional unit of net irrigated area is associated with an increase of approximately 14.01 units in agricultural output. The significance of this coefficient highlights the critical role of the irrigation infrastructure in enhancing productivity.

Credit to agriculture by Scheduled Commercial Banks shows a negative coefficient of, with a p-value of 0.054, reflecting a marginally significant negative impact. Although not statistically significant at the 5% level, this result suggests a slight decrease in agricultural output with an increase in credit. *Social sector expenditure* demonstrates a significant positive effect, with a coefficient of 0.2999 ($p < 0.001$), indicating that each additional unit of expenditure corresponds to a 0.30-unit increase in agricultural output. This significant effect underscores the importance of social sector investment in boosting productivity.

The random-effects model corroborates these findings, with coefficients for annual rainfall deviation and SW monsoon rainfall deviation confirming their insignificance. *The net irrigated area* remained a significant positive predictor (coefficient = 12.3431, $p < 0.001$), and social sector expenditure continued to show a robust positive effect (coefficient = 0.4112, $p < 0.001$). These results are further supported by diagnostic checks, including the Breusch-Pagan Lagrangian multiplier test, which confirms the appropriateness of the fixed effects models.

Coefficient Plots

Model 1. (c) Model 2. (d)



The analysis of Model 2, focusing on domestic violence incidents, revealed several key insights. The fixed effects model shows that *agricultural output* has a coefficient of 0.0458 ($p = 0.390$), indicating a positive but statistically insignificant relationship with domestic violence, as shown in the coefficient plot (d). This suggests that, while agricultural output is associated with domestic violence, the effect is not statistically significant.

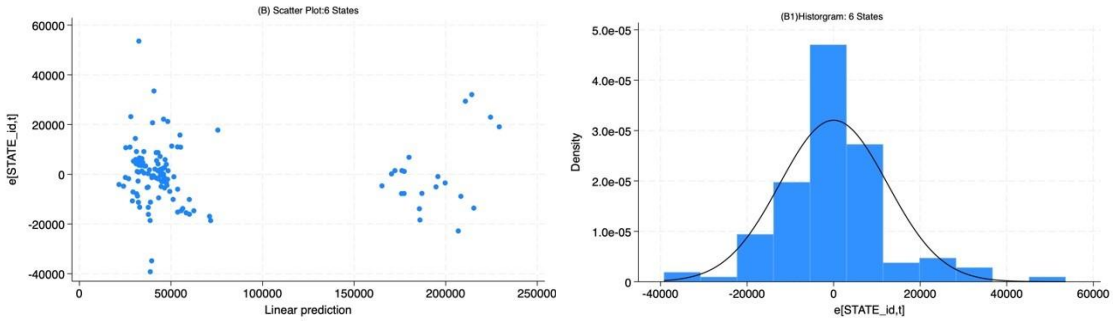
Annual rainfall deviation had a coefficient of -6.1629 ($p = 0.666$), indicating no significant effect on domestic violence incidents. In contrast, *the SW monsoon rainfall deviation*

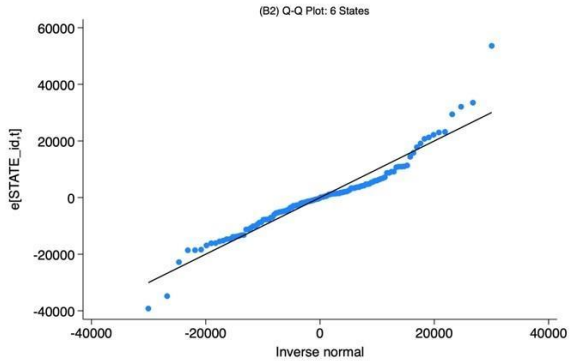
exhibits a coefficient of -17.6825 (p = 0.018), which is statistically significant. This suggests that increased SW monsoon rainfall deviation is associated with a decrease in domestic violence incidents of approximately 17.68 units, indicating a potentially meaningful inverse relationship.

Credit to agriculture has a coefficient of -0.0396 (p = 0.298), suggesting no significant effect on domestic violence. *However, social sector expenditure* has a significant positive relationship with domestic violence, with a coefficient of 0.1182 (p = 0.041). This indicates that higher social sector expenditures are associated with an increase in domestic violence incidents, potentially due to increased reporting or awareness.

5.2.2 Residual Diagnostics and Model Robustness

For both models analysing agricultural output and domestic violence across the six Indian states, residual diagnostics and robustness checks confirm the validity of the fixed-effects approach. The Scatter plots of the residuals, as shown in Graph (B) for these models, exhibit no discernible patterns, suggesting minimal heteroscedasticity.





Moreover, the residuals in both models show an approximate normal distribution, as indicated by bell-shaped histograms and Q-Q plots, shown in Graphs (B1) and (B2), respectively, closely following the 45-degree line, with only minor right-skewness.

Robustness checks, including random-effects models and clustered robust standard errors, reveal that while the impact of agricultural output on domestic violence becomes significant in the pooled OLS model, the fixed-effects results remain consistent with

insignificant effects for rainfall deviations and credit to agriculture.

Table 4 sheds light on these regression findings, illustrating how rainfall variability and other agricultural factors influence domestic violence incidents and agricultural production. The Breusch-Pagan Lagrangian multiplier test confirmed that the fixed-effects model is more appropriate, particularly for capturing state-specific impacts.

Table 4. Regression results for Rainfall Variability (6 agriculturally significant Indian states)			
Dependent Variables	**Model 1: Agricultural Output**	**Model 2: Domestic Violence Incident**	**Significance level**
Independent Variables			
Annual Rainfall Deviation	-24.6346 (0.742)	-6.1629 (0.7333)	**>10%**
SW Monsoon Rainfall Deviation	-26.0060 (0.805)	-17.6825 (0.485)	**>10%**
Net Irrigated Area	-	0.0458 (0.034)*	**5%**
Credit to Agriculture	14.0136 (0.000)**	N/A	**1%**
Social Sector Expenditure	-0.1120 (0.054)*	-0.0396 (0.005)**	**5% , 1%**
Agricultural Output	0.2999 (0.000)**	0.1182 (0.000)**	**1%**
Constant (_cons)	-11315.59 (0.537)	4065.269 (0.002)**	**p> 10% , 1%**
N	126	126	
Number of Groups	6	6	
R- squared	0.4263	0.5846	
F-statistics	17.09	32.37	

Note: ** and * denote statistical significance at 1% and 5% levels respectively. The table shows the estimated coefficients (β) for each variable for Model 1 (Agricultural Output) and Model 2 (Domestic Violence Incident) represented in (Equation 2) and (Equation 3) respectively, from section 4 under Model Specifications and Variable Details. The values in parentheses represnts p-values. In Model 1 (Agricultural Output), Net Irrigated Area, Credit to Agriculture, and Social Sector Expenditure significantly affect agricultural output, with the Net Irrigated Area and Social Sector Expenditure having positive impacts, while Credit to Agriculture shows a negative effect whereas in Model 2 (Domestic Violence Incident), Credit to Agriculture has a significant negative effect, while Social Sector Expenditure also shows a significant positive relationship with domestic violence incidents.

Regression analysis conducted on six agriculturally important states revealed that the net irrigated area significantly enhanced output, with a coefficient of 14.0136 at the 1% significance level. Conversely, agricultural credit has a negative impact on output, with a coefficient of -0.1120 at the 5% significance level. Social sector expenditure demonstrated a robust positive influence on both agricultural output and domestic violence, with coefficients of 0.2999 and 0.1182, respectively, both significant at the 1% level. Furthermore, a positive correlation exists between agricultural output and incidents of domestic violence, with a coefficient of 0.0458 at the 5% significance level. The net irrigated area and social sector expenditure consistently maintained their significance, whereas rainfall deviations showed no statistical significance.

These findings highlight the importance of structural and economic factors, such as irrigation, credit, and social sector investment, compared to rainfall-related factors, such as rainfall deviations, in shaping both agricultural and social outcomes within the examined states.

5.3 Comparison of Results

The comparative analysis of the broader dataset encompassing 25 Indian states and the more focused subset of six agriculturally significant states reveals both convergence and divergence in how rainfall deviations and socioeconomic factors affect agricultural output and domestic violence. A key finding across both analyses was the lack of statistical significance for *rainfall deviations*, whether *annual* or related to the *SW monsoon*, in influencing agricultural output and domestic violence. This supports the existing

literature, suggesting that rainfall variability alone may not fully capture the complexities affecting agricultural performance. For instance, states such as Punjab and Haryana, with advanced irrigation systems, demonstrate that effective irrigation can mitigate the impact of rainfall variability on agricultural productivity, thereby validating the broader trend observed in the data.

In contrast, the *net irrigated area* consistently showed a significant positive effect on agricultural output across both broader and narrower datasets. This trend is particularly evident in the six agriculturally significant states where the positive relationship between irrigation and productivity, resulting in increased output, is pronounced. The critical role of irrigation infrastructure in boosting agricultural output is highlighted by the example of Tamil Nadu, which, despite diverse agricultural practices, benefits significantly from investments in irrigation, aligning with broader findings.

Similarly, *social sector expenditures* significantly influenced both agricultural output and domestic violence in both analyses. This finding is consistent with the broader dataset, and is reflected in the six agriculturally significant states. For example, in Tamil Nadu, substantial social investments have been linked to improvements in agricultural productivity, although domestic violence remains a persistent issue. This suggests that while social sector spending

is important, it may not fully address the complexities of domestic violence, thereby reinforcing the need for comprehensive socio-economic interventions.

The negative impact of *credit to agriculture* on agricultural output, as observed in both the 25 states and six-state analyses, points to potential inefficiencies in credit utilization. This finding is exemplified in Maharashtra, where farmer indebtedness and agricultural distress are of significant concern. The analysis supports the notion that increasing credit availability alone may not yield the desired outcomes without addressing underlying
structural issues.

Overall, the consistent patterns observed regarding irrigation and social sector expenditure, along with the nuanced effects of credit and agricultural output on domestic violence, underscore the intricate interplay between economic and social factors. The examples of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra validate these findings and highlight the importance of considering regional characteristics and socioeconomic conditions. This comparison provides valuable insights into tailoring policies and interventions aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and addressing domestic violence. This underscores the need for a nuanced approach that considers both regional specifics and broader trends to effectively address the socioeconomic impacts of rainfall variability.

5.4 Mechanism Analysis

This delves into the mechanisms underlying the observed impacts of rainfall deviations and socio-economic factors on agricultural output and domestic violence. Understanding these mechanisms is essential for interpreting results and their implications.

Impact on Agricultural Output: The results reveal that variations in annual and SW monsoon rainfall deviations do not significantly affect agricultural output in either the broader dataset

of 25 states or the subset of six agriculturally significant states. This limited impact suggests that factors beyond rainfall deviations, such as irrigation infrastructure and social sector investments, play a substantial role in shaping agricultural productivity. Irrigation infrastructure, for example, mitigates the effects of rainfall variability by providing a more stable water supply, which enhances crop yields, regardless of weather conditions. Similarly, social sector expenditure, which supports rural development and farmer education, positively influences agricultural output by improving farming practices and resource access. Despite these findings, the negative impact of credit on agricultural output warrants further attention. This negative relationship could arise from inefficiencies in credit allocation or utilization, where financial resources intended to support agricultural growth may be mismanaged or inadequately employed.

Impact on Domestic Violence: The analysis indicates that agricultural output significantly correlates with domestic violence in both datasets. Higher agricultural output, which is typically associated with increased income and food security, also seems to be linked to a rise in domestic violence. This counterintuitive result may reflect increased socioeconomic pressures or inequities exacerbated by economic changes. For instance, improvements in agricultural productivity might lead to heightened stress and conflict if the economic benefits are unevenly distributed or exacerbate existing social tensions. Social sector expenditure also showed a significant positive effect on domestic violence, suggesting that while investments in social programs are crucial, they may not completely

address the underlying causes of household abuse. These initiatives included implementing workplace anti-harassment laws, safeguarding women at home and in public spaces, promoting female education, and creating job opportunities for women. Although such programs aim to enhance women's development and provide them with social and economic

empowerment, they may not fully resolve the root issues contributing to domestic violence. This may point to a need for more targeted and effective interventions to address the specific socioeconomic and cultural factors that contribute to domestic violence. Interestingly, rainfall deviations and agricultural credit did not have a significant impact on domestic violence, suggesting that alternative factors, such as economic pressures or societal norms, may have a greater influence on domestic violence patterns in the areas studied. For example, economic hardships, including unemployment and financial instability, can increase family tensions. Societal norms, particularly those related to gender expectations and the acceptance of violent behavior, play a crucial role. Substance abuse and the efficacy of legal systems also influence these trends. The accessibility of community support services, resources for mental health, and persistence of violence across generations further shape these patterns. The impact of media and urban development can affect the relationship dynamics and public awareness.

5.4.1 Interconnected Mechanisms: The mechanisms affecting agricultural output and domestic violence are interconnected and can influence each other in complex ways. For example, while higher rainfall might improve agricultural productivity and income, it could also lead to increased socioeconomic pressures that exacerbate domestic violence. Conversely, improved agricultural output could heighten economic disparities and stress, leading to an increase in domestic violence. The interplay between these mechanisms highlights the importance of considering both direct and indirect effects when analyzing the impact of rainfall variability and socio-economic factors.

Hence, the mechanisms driving the effects of rainfall-induced shocks and socioeconomic factors on agricultural output and domestic violence are multifaceted. Understanding these mechanisms will help in designing targeted policies and interventions to mitigate adverse

outcomes and improve both agricultural productivity and domestic violence prevention. An examination of Maharashtra's drought situation from 2012 to 2016 reveals a comprehensive strategy implemented by governmental and non-governmental organisations.

1. Agricultural Measures: Implementation of drought-resistant crops, micro-irrigation systems, and subsidies.
2. Social Assistance: Establishment of women's groups, a hotline for domestic violence, and awareness programs.
3. Economic Strengthening: Skill development programmes and microloans for women. The outcomes included enhanced crop yields, reduced financial strain, decreased domestic violence, and increased female participation in agricultural decision making.

This integrative approach effectively addresses both agricultural and social issues in climate-stressed rural communities.

Section 6. Discussion

In this study, we explored the effects of climate variability, specifically rainfall deviations, on domestic violence against women and agricultural output across Indian states, utilizing a panel data regression approach with fixed effects for 25 states and six agriculturally significant states. Our key findings reveal that while rainfall deviations do not have a statistically significant direct impact on agricultural output, other factors, such as net irrigated area and social sector expenditure, play significant roles. The positive association between the net irrigated area and agricultural output highlights the critical importance of irrigation infrastructure in boosting productivity. This finding is consistent with previous literature, indicating that irrigation can mitigate the negative effects of climate variability on agriculture (Kumar & Sinha, 2020). The significant positive impact of social sector expenditure on

agricultural output also suggests that investments in social services are crucial for enhancing productivity, supporting the findings of studies that link social investments to improved agricultural outcomes (Rao, 2019). For example, in states such as Punjab and Maharashtra, significant investments in irrigation have helped enhance agricultural productivity even amidst variable rainfall, supporting this result.

Regarding domestic violence, our analysis indicated a nuanced relationship with rainfall-induced shocks. Specifically, deviations in SW monsoon rainfall are significantly associated with reduced domestic violence incidents, which could be attributed to the indirect effects of improved agricultural output and socioeconomic conditions in response to varying rainfall. This result aligns with research suggesting that positive agricultural outcomes can lead to decreased domestic violence by reducing stress and financial strain within households in Tamil Nadu (Smith & Li 2017). Conversely, the positive association between social sector expenditures and domestic violence could be a result of increased reporting or awareness rather than a direct causative effect. This aligns with the observations seen in states such as Karnataka, where enhanced reporting mechanisms and social awareness contributed to higher documentation and reporting of domestic violence cases (Chung & Hsu, 2018).

One of the reasons for the lack of direct impact of rainfall deviations on domestic violence is the adaptation strategies employed by agricultural households. As noted in the literature, communities with a history of frequent droughts or climatic variations often develop coping strategies, such as livelihood diversification and migration. These strategies help maintain income levels despite adverse weather conditions, thereby reducing stress that could otherwise contribute to domestic violence (Chuang, 2018; Sekhri & Storeygard, 2014). For instance, households may diversify their sources of income or migrate to areas with better

economic opportunities, thereby mitigating the negative impacts of climate shock, including rainfall variability. This adaptability is supported by the observed trends in Indian states, such as Gujarat, where increased investment in irrigation and agricultural support has helped communities better withstand climate variability (Desalegn, 2022).

The theoretical implications of our findings contribute to a broader understanding of the influence of environmental factors on social outcomes. Our results extend existing theories on the impact of climate variability on human well-being by highlighting the differential effects of various types of rainfall deviations and their indirect influences through agricultural output and socioeconomic conditions. This aligns with previous research indicating that the effects of climate shocks are moderated by adaptive capacities and socioeconomic factors (Hsiang & Burke, 2014).

From a policy perspective, our findings emphasise the need for targeted interventions to address the impact of rainfall-induced shocks, even in vulnerable populations. Investments in irrigation infrastructure and social sector support are critical for enhancing agricultural productivity and mitigating the adverse effects on domestic violence. For instance, expanding irrigation infrastructure in states such as Uttar Pradesh and strengthening social sector investments could help improve resilience against climate (rainfall) variability and reduce domestic violence. Policies should focus on improving agricultural resilience through practices such as crop diversification and rainwater harvesting, specifically in regions with below-average rainfall patterns. Additionally, financial support for crop diversification could help to buffer the impact of rainfall fluctuations. Furthermore, social sector investments should be tailored to enhance both economic security and effectiveness of reporting and support systems for domestic violence. For instance, strengthening social support systems and

implementing community-based programs to address domestic violence can further protect women in regions affected by climate change and rainfall. Implementing support programs during extreme weather events and strengthening rehabilitation efforts can help communities to cope with climate-induced stress.

Despite these contributions, this study had several limitations. One notable limitation is the lack of specific conversion factors for agricultural output, particularly for crops beyond food grains. This limitation affects the precision of agricultural output calculations, especially for commodities such as oilseeds and sugarcane. To enhance the reliability of agricultural output estimates, future research should prioritise the development of more accurate conversion factors for these crops. Additionally, the analysis relied on proxy variables to represent rainfall variability (rainfall deviations) owing to the unavailability of more detailed data on droughts and floods. Future studies should incorporate state-specific drought indices or more granular climate data to better understand the impacts of rainfall-induced shocks.

Socioeconomic control variables such as population density, women's literacy rates, and rural-urban dynamics were also omitted from this study due to data limitations. Including these variables in future research could offer a more comprehensive perspective on how socioeconomic factors interact with climate shocks to influence agricultural output and domestic violence. Moreover, while this study focused on broad state-level analysis across 25 Indian states and six agriculturally significant states, future research could explore regional interactions between other climate shocks, agriculture, and domestic violence, or extend the timeframe to capture evolving trends in climate variability and socioeconomic impacts. Such studies would provide deeper insights into how different regions adapt to changing climate conditions, including rainfall patterns, and the socioeconomic policies necessary to address

these challenges. Additionally, for the analysis of the 25 states, exploring additional variables and interactions related to economic stress and resource distribution within households could further illuminate the complex dynamics of agricultural productivity and domestic violence in the context of rainfall deviations and socioeconomic factors. Expanding the analysis to include more detailed data or different time periods may offer further insight into these intricate relationships.

Section 7. Conclusion

This study aimed to investigate the impact of rainfall variability on agricultural output and domestic violence against women across Indian states by utilising panel data regression with fixed effects for 25 Indian states and six agriculturally significant states. This research sought to enhance the understanding of how rainfall fluctuations influence these socioeconomic outcomes, providing insights into potential policy interventions. The analysis confirmed that rainfall variability significantly disrupts agricultural production, which is consistent with the existing literature on agriculture's vulnerability to climatic changes.

However, the anticipated direct relationship between rainfall variability and domestic violence is less evident. This suggests that, while rainfall shocks affect agricultural output, their impact on domestic violence may be mitigated by household adaptive strategies, such as income diversification and improved agricultural practices. States experiencing frequent droughts appear to be better equipped to manage these shocks because of established coping mechanisms.

This study has several limitations. The use of proxy variables to represent rainfall variations due to the lack of detailed drought and flood data may impact the accuracy of the results. Future research should incorporate more specific climate data such as state-specific drought

indices to clarify rainfall-induced shocks. Additionally, the study omitted significant socio-economic control variables such as population density, women's literacy rates, and rural-urban dynamics, which could provide a more detailed view of socioeconomic interactions with rainfall variation shocks. The inclusion of a broader range of variables could strengthen our findings.

Future research should investigate regional variations in rainfall shock impacts and extend the analysis time frame to capture trends in climate variability and socioeconomic effects. Examining additional variables related to economic stress and household resource distribution could further elucidate the dynamics between agricultural productivity, domestic violence, rainfall deviations, and ultimately climate variability. Incorporating more detailed data and analysing different time periods may provide deeper insights into regional adaptations to climate change and the socioeconomic policies necessary to support affected communities. Therefore, expanding the scope of analysis and improving data precision are essential for developing strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of rainfall variability and support vulnerable populations in India.

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