

Dear Colleague,

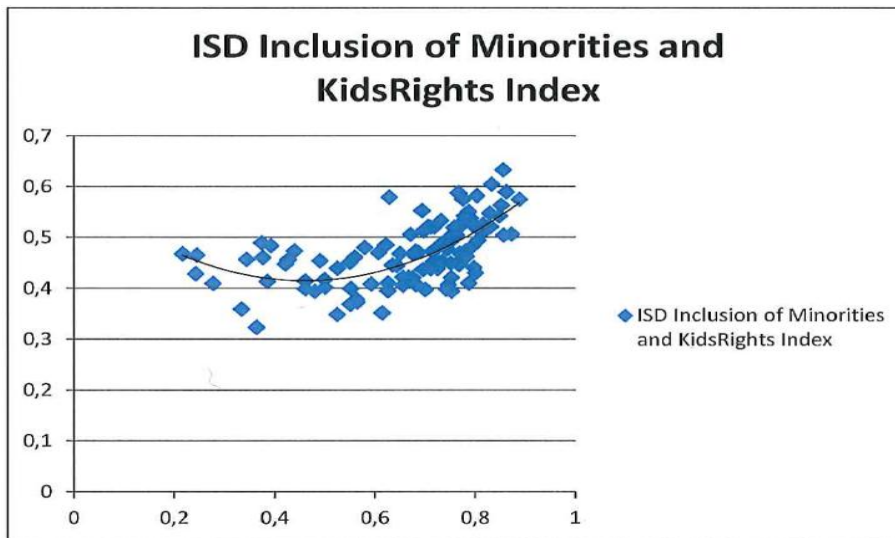
Welcome to the January 2014 issue of the “Indices of Social Development” (ISD) newsletter. This newsletter informs you about activities, events and data updates. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

- We congratulate Dr. Zahid Pervaiz on the successful defense of his thesis “Inclusiveness, Social Cohesion and Economic Performance” with use of ISD database, at National College of Business Administration & Economics, Lahore, Pakistan.
- One of the chapters of this thesis is published on the ISS ISD web-site in a slightly revised version as an ISD working paper “[Diversity, Inclusiveness and Social Cohesion](#)”
- The ISD team was awarded seed money from the Rotterdam Global Health Initiative, based at Erasmus University, to do an exploratory analysis with the database. The study will involve African researchers from the [PEP network](#) and will analyze to what extent social cohesion contributes to health outcomes at the cross-country level.
- Recently two new indices have been developed: KidsRights Index: <http://www.kidsrightsindex.org/>; and Social Progress Index: <http://www.socialprogressimperative.org/>.

We have looked at the correlation of these indices with the indices of social development. Please, see two examples below:

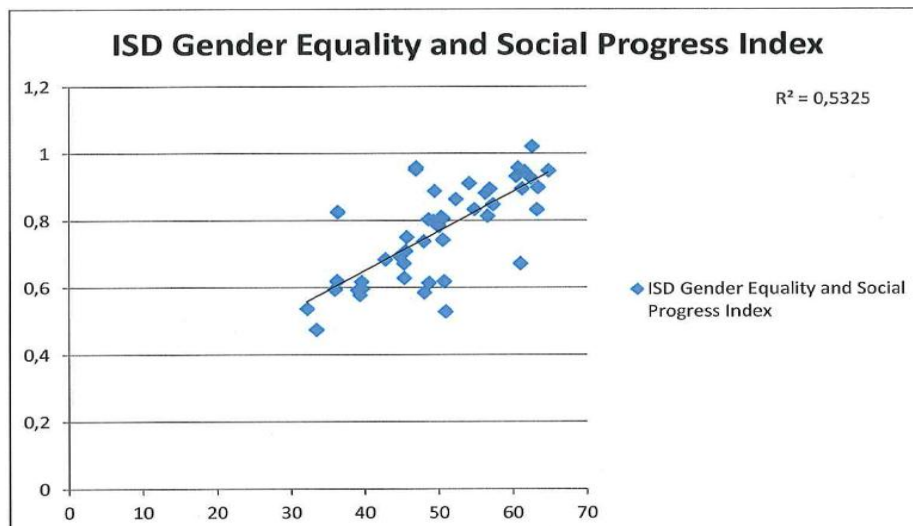
1. There is a weak positive correlation between ISD Inclusion of Minorities Index and KidsRights Overall Index:

Pearson correlation coefficient equals 0,270682



2. There is a very strong positive correlation between ISD Gender Equality Index and Overall Social Progress Index:

Pearson correlation coefficient equals 0,729719



The correlations suggest that there may be interesting research questions about social development to be explored with these two new data sets in combination with ISD data.

- The Prize for the Best Master Thesis 2013 Using ISS ISD Database could not be awarded in 2013 due to lack of master papers using ISS ISD database. We are looking forward to the submissions in 2014:
- **ISS ISD team is happy to announce the *Prize for the Best Master Thesis 2014 Using ISS ISD Database!***

The winner will receive € 250 and the Master thesis will be published as an ISS ISD working paper on our website! In the successful paper ISD database should have sufficient space, at least with one index used substantively in the analysis. In order to use ISD database, please, go to our web-site <http://www.indsocdev.org> and use data of at least one of the six indices. The deadline for submission is 30th of November 2014. Please, send your paper to isd@iss.nl with note “Prize for the Best Master Thesis” as a subject. Only theses written in 2014 can take part in the competition.

- ISD would like to know your opinion about the Indices. Please send your comments or (working) papers to isd@iss.nl.

Best wishes,
The Indices of Social Development Team.

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