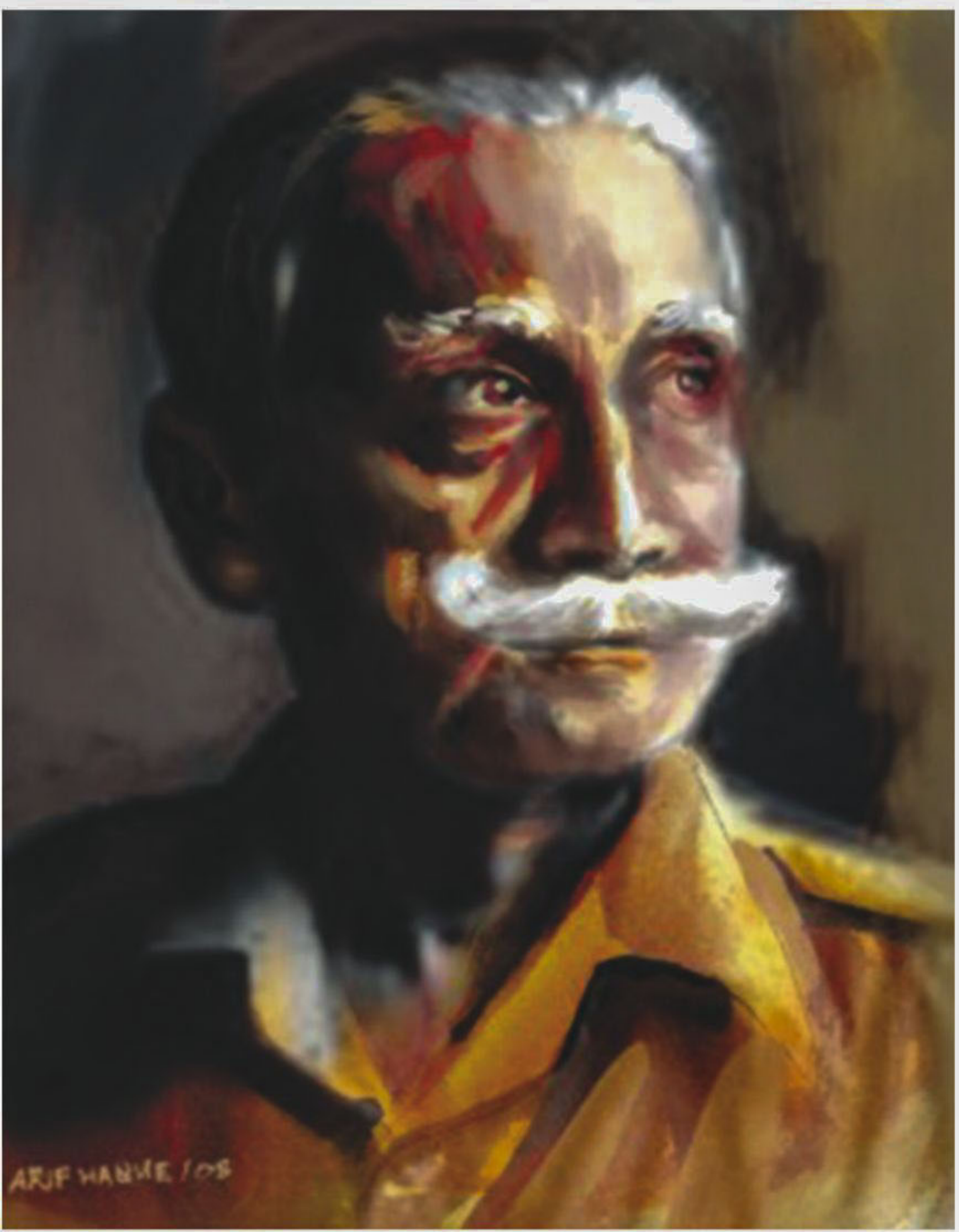


98TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BANGABIR GENERAL M. A. G. OSMANI

# O General, My General



DEWAN MOHAMMAD TASAWWAR RAJA

If you are looking for a perfect example of a 'man of integrity' at present day's context, the correct answer will be General Mohammad Ataul Ghani Osmani. Anyone - friend or foe, relative or stranger, known or unknown, senior or junior - who came in contact with him for any reason, will unquestionably agree that there cannot be a better example than him. All those who knew him well will obviously accept that he was a man of principles, self respect, pride and dignity. Nothing could ever make him compromise on principles.

Bangabir Osmani is the name of an era, the name of a history, the name of a generation, and the name of a chapter by itself in our national history. It is one of those very few names of the twentieth century, which were pronounced most frequently with maximum honour and pride. Osmani is a noble name which will always remain enthroned in the hearts of all Bangladeshis and continue to serve as glorious moral beacon for patriotism, courage and dedicated public service. He is the symbol of struggle for our homeland, a symbol of valour, a symbol of success, and above all, the symbol of justice, hope and aspiration.

General Osmani was an outstanding and bold military leader. He tasted the success of winning a war, where he was the Commander-in-Chief of the victorious Mukti Bahini. This is of course a rare opportunity for any General in his lifetime. He was one of the few national leaders who at the same time nurtured and inculcated a number of high principles, human virtues, moral values, and a very high degree of military professionalism. This is why we, the people, should study this great personality, who will continue forever to inspire and guide generations of heroes and leaders of our nation.

General Osmani was a unique individual, who served as a military

officer [in British India] for seven years. Thereafter, he served as a distinguished Pakistani army officer for 20 years. He played a key role to build formidable armed forces of a new nation, Pakistan. Whatever happened next will remain a dream for others in the world. An ex-Indian or an ex-Pakistani became the man of the match of the Liberation War in 1971, which gave birth to a beautiful, lush green and thriving "Bangladesh." General Osmani is one of the most famous Bangladeshis and will remain so, as long as the history of Bangladesh lasts.

*"Forward, my countrymen, to protect the lives and honour of our men and women, to secure the future of our citizens. Whatever be their religion, caste or creed, and to defend the independence of Bangladesh."*

- M. A. G. Osmani

The first Commander-in-Chief of Bangladesh, General M.A.G Osmani [he was a General of the Mukti Bahini from April 1971 to April 7, 1972] was highly blessed by the Almighty, because in the beginning, he commanded a combating and winning armed forces, and thereafter transformed the three services, i.e. army, navy and air force into a highly professional one. Whereas, General K M Cariappa, the Indian C-in-C or General Ayub Khan, the Pakistani C-in-C, concentrated their initial efforts on only restricting their armies and

defending their territorial integrity. Interestingly, General Osmani also had the unique opportunity to command a people's army, the 'Mukti Bahini' like Vo Nguyen Giap of Vietnam. (...) [Many] great generals fought the wars with full logistical backup, having all the complements required to win a war. But General Osmani led a way against heavy odds. Fighting a trained, numerically superior army with nothing in hand is really a formidable task - General Osmani did that successfully!

The resounding words of General Osmani still resonate in the air of independent Bangladesh:

*"People of Bangladesh at war! Ours is a national war, in which the entire nation, irrespective of political beliefs, caste or creed stand united as one man. Its ideals are high, resolution hard as steel. We will free Bangladesh from the occupation of the inhuman, Godless enemy totally devoid of all ethics, whatever be the cost..."*

*"So, wherever you are in Bangladesh - in the rivulets, lakes, fields and remote recesses of the rural interior, on the riverine highways, land routes, rural markets, industrial centres, towns and cities - strike the enemy with whatever you can find. Strike him hard, destroy him, and obliterate all semblance of his existence. Forward, my countrymen, to protect the lives and honour of our men and women, to secure the future of our citizens. Whatever be their religion, caste or creed, and to defend the independence of Bangladesh."*

In true sense, this great General, with relatively short physical stature, towered over everyone around him. He eminently carried the courage of selfless conviction and was a model of selfless service. Throughout his life, regardless of his personal circumstance, he never hesitated to heed his country's call. He was a man who truly did everything for a reason, for a purpose, not for himself, but for the amity and glory of his beloved motherland, Bangladesh.

Excerpts have been taken from the introduction of the book *O General, My General*, edited by Lt. Col Dewan Mohammad Tasawwar Raja of the Bangladesh Army.

## Cross-country differences in income inequality Where do South Asian countries stand?

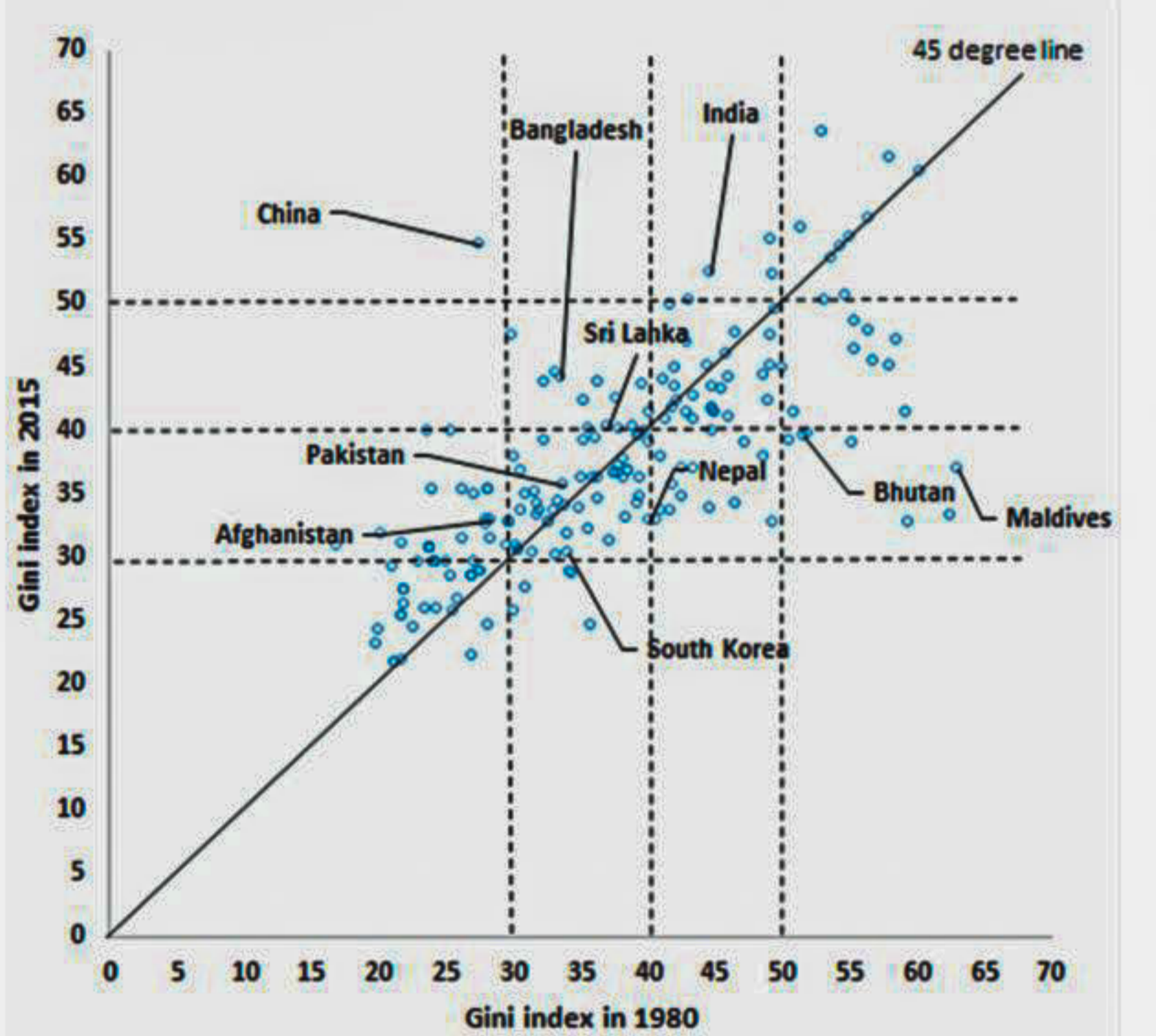
SELIM RAIHAN

In recent years, there has been a growing interest among general people, researchers and policymakers in income inequality, its causes, and its effects. The most popular index of income inequality is the 'Gini index', which measures the inequality among levels of income of the people of any country. A Gini coefficient of zero means perfect equality, where everyone has the same income, and a Gini coefficient of 1 (or 100 percent) expresses maximum inequality.

For meaningful comparisons among different countries with respect to their levels and trends in income inequality, we need comparable data. National surveys on households' incomes and expenditures in different countries provide data on the Gini index of these countries for some years. However, we are not in a position to use these data for cross-country comparisons due to various reasons. In those surveys, there are differences in the population covered, differences in coverage on geography, age and employment status, differences in the definition on welfare (whether to use market income or consumption data), differences in the use of equivalence scale (whether to use household per capita or household adult equivalence), and differences in the treatment of various other items, such as non-monetary income and imputed rents. The Standardised World Income Inequality Database (SWIID),

introduced in 2008, provides a dataset on income inequality that facilitates comparability for the largest possible sample of countries and years. A custom missing-data algorithm is used to standardise data on cross-country income inequality using the data from national surveys (Solt, F. 2016. "The Standardized World Income Inequality Database". Social Science Quarterly). Using the SWIID database, the World Economy Database (WED) version 9.1 has generated a time series database on the "Gini index" for 207 countries over the period between 1970 and 2015 by filling missing observations with the help of different estimation methods.

Using the WED 9.1, we have produced a scatter plot diagram with data on Gini indices for 207 countries in 1980 in the horizontal axis and data on Gini indices of the same countries in 2015 in the vertical axis. In the scatter plot, dots around the 45 degree line are the countries with 'no or very small' changes in Gini indices during 1980-2015; dots above the 45 degree line are the countries which experienced an increase in the Gini index; and finally, dots below the 45 degree line are the countries which experienced a decline in the Gini index. Out of those 207 countries, 18 experienced 'no or very small' changes in Gini indices, 109 experienced increases and 80 experienced declines. Among the 8 south Asian countries, 5 countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) observed rises



while the rest 3 countries (Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal) experienced declines. We also brought China and South Korea into the picture, and it appears that the Gini index in China increased quite astonishingly, whereas that of South Korea declined.

We have also categorised the values of Gini index as follows: a Gini index value lower than 30 is considered low; an index value between 30 and less

than 40 is considered medium; an index value between 40 and less than 50 is considered high; and an index value above 50 is considered very high. Depending on these classifications, we can observe some interesting movements of the South Asian countries during 1980 and 2015. Afghanistan moved from a status of low inequality to medium inequality; Bangladesh moved from medium

inequality to high inequality; though Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka remained within the medium inequality range, Sri Lanka was at the border of high inequality; India moved from high inequality to very high inequality; and both Bhutan and Maldives moved from very high inequality to medium inequality. In comparison, China moved from low inequality to very high inequality, whereas South Korea moved from medium inequality to very close to low inequality.

We also explored the factors affecting inequality in the cross-country and over time contexts. Results from a fixed effect panel regression suggest that while rise in the real GDP per capita tends to have a small negative association with the Gini index, an increase in both life expectancy at birth and net secondary school enrollment are strongly associated with the decline in the Gini index. These suggest that, an increase in per capita real GDP is not a guarantee for the reduction in income inequality, whereas investment in social infrastructure with the aim of raising the life expectancy at birth and a rise in secondary school enrollment can be very instrumental in reducing income inequality.

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For meaningful comparisons among different countries with respect to their levels and trends in income inequality, we need comparable data.

**QUOTABLE Quote**

**OMAR KHAYYAM**  
Persian mathematician, astronomer, philosopher and poet.

*Be happy for this moment. This moment is your life.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS  
1 Left over  
6 Time in office  
10 Gauge setting  
11 CBER's need  
12 Brat's opposite  
13 Heart, for one  
14 Tater  
15 Turn  
16 Wire measure  
17 Add up  
18 Bright beam  
19 Paints like Pollock  
22 Pennsylvania port  
23 Staff member  
26 Speaks explosively in anger  
29 Beanie or beret  
32 Early hour  
33 Manx, for one  
34 Available  
36 Infield corner  
37 Home of the Marlins  
38 Stood  
39 Useful skill  
40 Seize by force  
41 Pictured

42 First odd prime

DOWN  
1 Twitches  
2 Syrinx  
3 Gaunt  
4 Clarinet part  
5 Angled pipe  
6 Bakery buy  
7 Painter Degas  
8 Rodeo rope  
9 Bucks  
11 Hotel door posting  
15 Wish undone  
17 "Hurry up!"  
20 "-- the season..."  
21 Use a chair  
24 Illinois city  
25 Sign of error  
27 German conjunction  
28 Treeless plain  
29 Deep sleeps  
30 Ouzo flavor  
31 Aspect  
35 Prayer finish  
36 "Nonsense!"  
38 Spare tire

**BEETLE BAILEY** by Mort Walker

MY BACK HURTS!  
STOP GRIPING! DO YOU HEAR ME COMPLAINING?  
NO, BUT I'M CARRYING YOUR SNACKS!

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER**

B	A	S	I	L	V	I	G	O	R			
R	A	N	S	O	M	A	D	O	R			
B	I	D	N	E	E	A	G	O				
S	T	Y	M	I	E	S	W	A	R			
			I	N	K		P	A	N	T		
A	B	A	S	E	K	A	Y	O	S			
C	O	S	T	G	I	G						
C	O	T	H	A	M	E	L	I	N			
U	S	A	I	M	O	O	N	O				
S	T	E	R	I	C	K	Y	N	O	T	E	S
E	E	R	I	C	K	Y	N	O	T	E	S	
D	R	E	A	D	S	T	A	T	S			

**BABY BLUES** by Kirkman & Scott

WHERE'S ZOE?  
SHE'S PICKING OUT ACCESSORIES TO PLAY SOCCER??  
IT'S THE GAME WITHIN THE GAME, DARLING!  
WHICH HAIRBAND IS MORE LIKELY TO INTIMIDATE THE GOALIE?