

Differential Gender Development Outcomes in India: A Socio-Spatial and Economic Analysis

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Abstract:

Gender discrimination has been an important socio-economic and cultural issue in Indian backdrop; though India is one of the fastest-growing nations in the world but she has ranked 140th (out of 156 countries) in 2021 on the global gender gap index. This thesis explores the possible determinants of declining child sex ratio (CSR) in India. The spatial panel data regression results are assumed to be better compared to simple panel because the CSR is very much influenced by space and neighbouring state's CSR. The spatial panel regression results show that income and CSR are nonlinear with U-shaped pattern. Female employment directly augments female autonomy as well as empowerment, which indirectly increases income and thereby a state may cross that cut-off level of income and may experience higher CSR. This thesis tries to investigate the gender disparity in literacy and enrolment rate. The major focus of this thesis is to examine the spatial influence of gender differential in educational outcomes along with conventional socio-economic variables in a panel data framework. I try to develop a simple theoretical model of joining work of a married female under different income levels; at a critical level of income of the family; if that is achieved, then female devotes her time at home. Higher income and education induce female to make some trade-off between joining in workforce and staying at home, but income effect forces the female out of workforce that goes in favour of staying at home or to childcare. My empirical findings also support the anti-U feminisation hypotheses in case of higher educated females. Now, In order to explore the determinants of crimes (such as dowry death, rape, molestation and torture) in India, I consider 24 states and five time points (over 1995–2015). I employ both global and local Moran's indices for dowry death, which has the least reporting bias, and observe that space as well as neighbourhood effect does matter. Specifically, spatial panel regression results on dowry death clearly show that space along with neighbourhood effect does matter towards variations of dowry death.

KEY WORDS: GENDER DISPARITY, SIPHER'S DISPARITY INDEX, COEFFICIENT OF INEQUALITY, MORAN INDEX, SPATIAL ANALYSIS