Amol Singh Raswan

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Education

Northwestern University
Non-degree-seeking student in Mathematics and Spanish *(GPA: 4/4)* — 2020-21

Columbia University
MA Economics *(GPA: 4.2/4.33, Rank 1)* — December 2019
Thesis title: *Are educated politicans better for local economic growth in India?*

Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), University of Delhi
BA (Hons) Economics *(GPA: 9.1/10, Top 5%)* — May 2018

Academic Honours

(Sole Recipient) Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Scholarship for Academic Excellence, SRCC — 2016, 2017, 2018
G.L. Bansal Gold Medal for First position in Department of Economics, SRCC — 2015-16
National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) Scholarship, Government of India — 2013

Research Experience

Global Poverty Research Lab, Northwestern University
Research Analyst for Prof Dean Karlan — January 2020 -
– Designed survey and data collection strategy, and contributed to research design for development economics RCTs
– Performed data cleaning, econometric and machine learning analysis, and editing for academic and policy research

Department of Economics, Columbia University
Research Assistant for Prof Jack Willis — Oct - Nov 2019
– Conducted descriptive analysis for cross-country convergence in the World and European Values Survey data
Research Assistant for Divya Singh (PhD student) — Sept 2018 - May 2019
– Data cleaning and econometric analysis for the paper 'Safer Elections and Women Turnout: Evidence from India'

Evidence for Policy Design, Yale University
Summer Research Intern in Bihar, India — June - August 2019
– Conducted semi-structured interviews and scoping activities on low financial engagement of rural women
– Designed and implemented web scraping algorithms to set up a data collection system for ongoing RCTs

Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India
Research Intern — June - July 2017
– Wrote a chronological review comparing poverty line methodologies of the Indian Planning Commission, Ministry of Rural Development, the World Bank, and United Nations Development Programme

Research Projects

Pandey, S. and Raswan A. (2021) Impact of college-educated politicians on economic growth. *In progress*
Draft available at `https://bit.ly/3ImSBoG`

> *We study the causal impact of electing college-educated politicians to Indian state legislative assemblies on the economic performance of their constituencies. Using data on the education background of candidates running in state assembly elections for the 2004–2009 period and a constituency-level measure of economic activity proxied by the intensity of night-time lights, we employ a regression discontinuity design and find that narrowly electing a college graduate increases the growth of the intensity of night-time lights by about 4.4 percentage points (approximately 0.5 percentage point higher GDP growth). The effect, driven by STEM and commerce graduates, is concentrated in states with poorer governance and development levels.*

Raswan, A. (2018) Open Defecation in India: Causes and Consequences. *Journal of The Economics Society*, Ramjas College, University of Delhi. *www.ramjasjournalofeconomics.weebly.com*
– Reviewed cultural idiosyncrasies and household power dynamics as factors influencing open defecation in India; and outlined its adverse effects on economic growth via its impact on children's physical and cognitive development
– Best Research Paper in 'Clean Water and Sanitation' at South Asian Economics Students' Meet 2018, Bangladesh

Extracurricular Experience

Selected by Govt. of India as country delegate at Y20 Summit China, the official youth forum of the G20 — 2016
Mathematics tutor for MA Economics, Columbia University — 2019
Founding member and chief coordinator, Financial Literacy Cell, SRCC — 2016-17

Skills

Software/Programming: Stata, Python, R, SurveyCTO, Matlab
Languages: English, Hindi, Punjabi, Spanish (A2)