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BROWN UNIVERSITY

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Personal Information:

Sex: Male
Citizenship: Indian

Undergraduate Studies:

B.A. Honors Economics, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, India, 2014

Graduate Studies:

Brown University, 2014 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: "*Essays in Development Economics*"
Job Market Paper: "*Impact of Demonetization on Household Consumption in India*"
Expected Completion Date: May 2020

References:

Professor Andrew Foster
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Professor Neil Thakral
Economics Department, Brown University
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Research Fields:

Development Economics, Gender, Credit

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2019	Intermediate Microeconomics, Brown University, for Prof. Teddy Meknonnen
Spring 2019	Intermediate Microeconomics, Brown University, for Prof. Alex Poterack
Fall 2018	Environmental Economics and Policy, Brown University, for Prof. Alex Poterack
Spring 2018	Environmental Economics and Policy, Brown University, for Prof. Lint Barrage
Spring 2017	Applied Econometrics for Labor Economics (Graduate) for Prof. Kenneth Chay
Fall 2016	Environmental Economics and Policy, Brown University, for Prof. Lint Barrage

Spring 2016 Development Economics, Brown University, for Prof. Anja Sautmann
Fall 2015 Environmental Economics and Policy, Brown University, for Prof. Lint Barrage

Research Experience and Other Employment:

Summer 2015 Research Assistant for Prof. Andrew Foster

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2018 Center for Contemporary South Asia Summer Fellowship, Brown University (\$7,500)
2014 K. S. Goindi Fellowship
2014 Rohit Ranjan Memorial Prize, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi
2011-2014 Tiara Foundation Scholarship
2011-2014 Haryana State Government Meritorious Scholarship

Professional Activities

Presentations

Fall 2019 North Eastern Universities Development Consortium, Northwestern University
Fall 2019 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
Spring 2019 Applied Micro Lunch Seminar, Brown University
Spring 2019 Population Association of America, Austin
Fall 2018 Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University
Fall 2017 Applied Micro Lunch Seminar, Brown University
Spring 2017 Applied Micro Lunch Seminar, Brown University

Affiliations

2016-Present Demography Trainee, PSTC, Brown University
2017-Present Trainee, Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University

Skills

Stata, LaTeX, ArcGIS, MATLAB

Languages

English, Hindi, Punjabi (Speaking)

Research Papers

“Impact of Demonetization on Household Consumption in India”

(Job Market Paper)

In November 2016, the Government of India made the two highest denomination currency notes illegal overnight. While this move was proposed for potential future benefits, it resulted in severe liquidity constraints for many households as these two notes constituted 86% of the total currency in circulation. In this paper, I study the impact of these liquidity constraints on household consumption using Consumer Pyramids panel data. I find that demonetization led to a decline in household durable and non-durable consumption in the initial months after demonetization. The decline was higher for the relatively richer households. I also find that households increased borrowing after demonetization, particularly from money lenders to deal with the shock. The increase in borrowing was higher for relatively poorer households. I also focus on heterogeneity within farmers to show that the use of credit was higher among more cash constrained households. The results suggest that while the richer households reduced their consumption because it came at a lower utility cost to them, the poorer households had to rely on expensive mechanisms to maintain their consumption.

“Conditional Cash Transfers and Parental Investment in Daughters”

Many states in India rely on conditional cash transfer schemes, to reduce discrimination against females. These programs aim to increase the perceived value of the girl child in general. In this paper, I study the impact of one such program on vaccination status and birth intervals following the eligible girls. Using District Level Household Survey (DLHS) data, I employ a difference-in-difference strategy, with boys as the control group. I find that the probability of vaccination for the eligible girls goes up by 11 percentage points relative to boys in rural areas. However, I do not find evidence of a differential change in the birth intervals following the eligible girls. My results suggest that while parents respond to the direct incentives for such schemes, they do not seem to respond by making investments which are not directly incentivized.

Research in Progress

Impact of Increase in Bank Access on Informal Interest Rates