**Research question: To what extent has India’s Right to Education Act (2009) increased rates of literacy and numeracy among primary school students in the country?**

***Structure of the paper***

* **Introduction** –
  + What will you be studying?
  + Motivation/ significance of your topic
  + What are the challenges? Or what is your research quedyion
    - Why is this RQ important
  + Discuss ideas for an answer to your research question
    - Previous researchers
    - Your opinion: your hypothesis/your expectation
  + Goals of the current
  + Brief overview of the methods
* **Literature review** -

In this section, I engage with the academic literature on 3 subjects (i)Different kinds of policies that have been enforced till now; (ii)The Efficacy of Covid-Related policies so far, using information from government reports to track changes in infection/death rates across time; (iii) Response to the policies by different groups. *Next step:*

* **Data** -

In order to collect my data, I will search covid databases from the last two years. We will search for time series data bases. The data sets will be of the following:

A) Dates when covid-related policy changes made (When were restaurants allowed to be open? /When were restaurants closed? /When was the mask mandate enforced? /When was the mask mandate relaxed? /Opening & Closing of Bars)

B) Daily Infection/Death Rates/Vaccine administration for different groups (Whites, Asians, African Americans, Latinos, etc.)

The data will be obtained from both federal and state and county databases. I will use them to help me answer my question.

Next steps: we have most of the data collected. Next is to organize the data and prepare for visualization, and then analysis.

* **Methods -** The goal is to assess changes(rise/dip) in the infection/death rates of each group as a consequence of covid related policy changes. To do this, I will be using time series, regression analysis. Specifically, we will conduct a lagged regression of covid cases on policy changes. The goal is to model the relationship between covid related policy changes and death rates of different minority groups.
* *Next step: pre-process the data to prepare it for a lagged regression analysis.*
* **Results** – According to my hypothesis, I expect to find that covid-related policies have impacted different groups differently. I also assume that the policies have been effective in reducing the infection/death rates overall, though I am interested to find out how & why policies are affecting different groups(whites, African-Americans, Latinos, Hispanics) differently. This section will just present the results in the form of regression/statistics tables and visual graphs. *Next steps:* I will look up a couple of tutorials on how to best create clear tables and graphs on Python.
* **Limitations** - I will point out the limitations of both the data and the analysis, and useful future steps. Limitations of the data are (a) they are not recognized by the government; (b) they do not account for local language learning. Limitations of the analysis are (a) my comparison group might not be similar to the treatment group; (b) a difference in differences framework might not take into account other factors that affect differences in learning outcomes. *Next steps:* As I work on the paper, note down any other limitations I think of, and figure out how I am going to respond to these limitations.
* **Discussion** - Based on the findings, I will make recommendations for policy changes that the Indian government can pursue, to improve the Right to Education Act and overall educational outcomes in India. *Next steps:* No next steps until I finish the rest of the paper.
  + **Ii will discuss the implicatsions of my results**
    - **What were the results?**
    - **What do they mean to me? Does it support or not support my hypothesis**
    - **How do they compare to previous research? Does it support/not support other hypotehsis**
  + **Limitations**
  + **Further research**

***Data availability:*** I have emailed Pratham to ask for the data. My mentor has worked with this data before, and is familiar with the process for requesting it. If they do not approve my request, I will use data from the Indian government’s surveys, though I will then have to change my methodology and focus more on reporting an overview of the summary statistics.

***Technical skills*:** As I’ll be doing a quantitative data analysis, I will need to learn how to clean data and how to perform a regression analysis on it. I will also need to learn Python to help my analyse the data.