

CHAPTER 12

ECONOMICS

Doctoral Theses

01. KRISHNAPRIYA (P. P)
Household Behaviour and Health Outcomes in India
Supervisors : Prof. Rohini Somanathan and Dr. Parikshit Ghosh
Th 22970

Abstract
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The primary aim of my dissertation is to examine the determinants of household fuel choices and their health implications, especially for women who spend a large share of their day using them. I study three related but separate questions and these form the three principal chapters of this dissertation. In the first of these chapters, I use secondary data sources to characterise patterns of fuel use across the country and study their correlates. I supplement this data with primary survey data from four districts of West Bengal. The primary data show that among households which use solid fuels, females in households which have better ventilation measures have better lung capacities. The results of this chapter suggest that information and availability constraints may play an important role in fuel choices and that these choices do have significant health impacts. My second chapter uses a theoretical model to ask whether information campaigns promoting cleaner fuels and technologies are better directed at males or females within the household. The main finding of this chapter is that the optimal targeting policy will depend on two critical factors: (a) whether the decision is binary or continuous; (b) the degree to which male and female preferences diverge. In my third chapter, I use data from a field experiment I conducted in rural districts of Uttar Pradesh and Kerala to study the effects of information on household choices of fuels and appliances. I use an intervention in the form of information campaigns which provide households with information on the benefits and costs of alternative fuels and appliances for cooking and lighting. Comparisons with control villages suggest that both males and females respond to information about lighting alternatives. The increased adoption of pressure cookers and cookstoves was seen only in the Kerala villages where females received the information.

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1. Introduction 2. Fuel choices and respiratory health in India 3. A theoretical model: Information transmission among unequal individuals 4. Effects of information on energy related choices: Experimental evidence from rural Uttar Pradesh and Kerala 5. Conclusions.

02. SAMBAMURTY (Rama)
Subcontracting and Industrial Agglomeration: Inter-relationship and Effects on Labour Productivity and Wages in The Unorganised Manufacturing Sector in India.
Supervisors : Prof. Aditya Bhattacharjea and Prof. Arup Mitra.
Th 22951

Abstract
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Subcontracting implies that firm chooses to outsource or subcontract a part of the process to an outside firm, whether it is sourcing inputs (backward linkage) or after-production processes (forward linkage). Such interaction may be enhanced when firms operate in a region which has a large number of diverse

industries operating therein. The study builds upon the idea that such industrial agglomeration creates avenues for greater buyer-supplier linkages that can possibly have an influence on the likelihood of firms in the unorganised manufacturing sector to get a contract from a larger firm. Subsequently, the effect of industrial agglomeration and subcontractual status of the firm on its labour productivity and wages is investigated. The study has made use of firm level, industry level and regional level variables from various data sources for 18 Indian states, primarily the NSS unorganised manufacturing enterprises survey for the 56th (2000-01), 62nd (2005-06) and 67th (2010-11) rounds, the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for organised manufacturing sector to investigate the research questions. Overall, it can be said that industrial agglomeration raises the probability of unorganised manufacturing sector firms in a number of industries to work in a subcontracting arrangement. However, the existing subcontractual arrangements prevailing in the firms have not been able to affect their performance positively in terms of labour productivity and wages. Secondly, own industry agglomeration as well as industrial diversity have shown a positive effect for wages in a number of industries. The same, however, has not been the experience in case of labour productivity effects of agglomeration economies. A number of policy suggestions have been made at the end in order to strengthen subcontracting arrangements between firms in unorganised and organised manufacturing sector and to rationalise the formation of agglomerations for maximising the benefits to unorganised manufacturing firms that the agglomerations entail.

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1. Introduction 2. Data description: Variables used, data sources and adjustments 3. Subcontracting and industrial agglomeration: A related phenomena in India's unorganised manufacturing sector 4. Subcontracting and industrial agglomeration: Impact on labour productivity in India's unorganised manufacturing sector 5. Subcontracting and industrial agglomeration: Effect on wages in India's unorganised manufacturing sector. 6. Conclusion. Appendices. References.

03. VARSHNEY (Deepak)

Evaluation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Supervisors : Prof. J. V. Meenakshi and Deepti Goel

Th 22952

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1. Introduction 2. MGNREGA'S impact on agricultural outcomes and the rural labour market 3. Gender difference in wages in casual labour market in India: An analysis of the impact MGNREGA 4. Impact of MGNREGA on cropping pattern and labour use: An analysis using primary survey data from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. References. Appendix.