

ABHISHEK CHAKRAVARTY

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PhD Candidate and Teaching Fellow
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Date of Birth: July 18, 1983
Sex: Male
Citizenship: Indian

Educational Qualifications

MA Economics, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, *First Class Honours*, 2004-2006

BA Honours Economics, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, 2001-2004

Doctoral Studies

PhD Economics, University College London, 2006 to present
Expected Complete Date: March, 2011

Thesis Supervisors

Dr. Imran Rasul, Department of Economics, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
Email: i.rasul@ucl.ac.uk

Professor Orazio Attanasio, Department of Economics, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
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Research and Teaching Fields

Research:
Development Economics, Household Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Policy Evaluation

Teaching:
Development Economics, Microeconomics, Game Theory

Employment Teaching Fellow, Department of Economics, University College London, 2007 to present
Research Assistant, INNOGEN, Open University, provide a technical review of the literature on maternal ill-health and mortality in Africa with particular reference to inequality and health systems organisation, October 2008
Research Assistant to Dr. Pedro Carneiro (Lecturer, UCL) and Dr. Sokbae 'Simon' Lee (Reader, UCL), analysis of US National Longitudinal Survey data for CEMMAP publication, April - July 2008
Intern, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), data work for the Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) Project commissioned by the Petroleum Ministry, Government of India, Summer 2005

Teaching Experience

Spring 2009
Microeconomics, BSc Economics, UCL
Fall 2008
Microeconomics, BSc Economics, UCL
Spring 2008
Dynamic Industrial Organisation, BSc Economics, UCL
Economic Development, BSc Economics, UCL
Fall 2007
The World Economy, BSc Economics, UCL
Economic Development, BSc Economics, UCL

Invited Conferences and Presentations

European Development Network (EUDN) Workshop for PhD Students, Presenter, Örebro, Sweden, 2009
Nordic Conference in Development Economics, Presenter and Discussant, Oscarsborg, Norway, 2009

Scholarships and Honours

UCL Alumni Scholarship, 2007-2008
Teaching Assistant Commendation, 2007-2008, 2008-2009

Research Papers

Supply Shocks and Gender Bias in Child Health Investments: Evidence from the ICDS Programme in India

This paper examines whether a permanent increase in the supply of immunisations reduces or intensifies gender bias in child health investments against girl children in India. It also investigates how the effect of the supply shock on gender bias varies over time. To do this we exploit the variation in the implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme in India across both regions and time. Estimations are carried out at the child-level, using data from the 2005-06 round of the Measure Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in India. We find that the increase in supply of vaccinations due to the programme initially increases the gender inequality in immunisation, but the increase disappears over time. We also find that the increase in gender

disparity in the early stages of exposure is due to households vaccinating their sons before their daughters when the new supply of immunisations becomes available. Robustness checks are carried out using one-to-one propensity score matching methods and alternative child health investments to eliminate concerns of reverse causality, mean reversion, and bias due to omitted wealth factors. The major policy implication from our analysis is that a permanent supply increase generates a temporary increase in gender disparity that eventually disappears. However a temporary or short-term supply increase may irreversibly widen the gender gap in immunisation, and potentially further worsen the female-male sex ratio.

August 27, 2009