

Madhuri Agarwal

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development economics, economics of education, labour economics

EDUCATION

PhD Economics, Nova School of Business and Economics, Lisbon and Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, 2015-present

Advisors: Ana Balcão Reis (Nova SBE), Christiane Clemens (Bielefeld University)

M.Sc., Economics, TERI University, New Delhi, India, 2010-2012

B.A. (Hons), Economics, Delhi University, 2007-2010

FELLOWSHIPS

- UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report Fellowship, 2019
- European Doctorate in Economics Erasmus Mundus (EDEEM): Dual-degree PhD fellowship, 2015-18

WORKING PAPERS

- *Retain or not to retain: Automatic promotion and student outcomes*
Job Market Paper. Available online.

This paper estimates the impact of automatic promotion on education outcomes. I use plausibly exogenous variation in exposure to the policy due to initial differences in repetition rates across districts. I find that automatic promotion reduces dropout rates by 0.1 percentage points for children in the upper-primary age. However, the policy had a negative effect on learning outcomes. The probability that a primary age student could solve a basic reading and arithmetic task falls by 0.3 and 0.8 percentage points respectively. The negative effect was larger for children with a poor socio-economic background. I explore probable mechanisms for the decline in learning levels. I find that districts with congested government schools suffered more due to the policy.

- *Look no farther: The impact of local contract teachers on student outcomes*
Co-author: Ana Balcão Reis. Available online.

The objective of this study is to identify the difference in the quality of contract and regular civil service teachers where quality is measured in terms of student learning outcomes. Using a value added estimation method, it was found that contract teachers are slightly better for 4th grade. For 6th grade although there seems to be a negative impact of contract teachers, this is compensated by the positive effect of the teacher being “local”.

- *Access to education and women health: Evidence using RDD*
Co-author: Vikram Bahure, Sayli Javadekar. Work in progress.

- *Education spending and inequality*
Work in progress.

- CONFERENCES
- 5th Lisbon Research Workshop on Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education at ISEG, Lisbon, January 24-25, 2019.
 - 14th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development at Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, December 19-21, 2018.
 - Development Economics and Policy Conference at University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, June 28-29, 2018.
 - LEER Conference on Education Economics at KU Leuven, Belgium, March 28-29, 2018.
- SUMMER SCHOOLS
- Summer School in Development Economics, Prato - Italy, June 18-20, 2019.
 - Sixteenth Summer School at University of Milan, Italy: “Family, Human Capital and Development”, Prof. Nava Ashraf and Prof. Jean-Marie Baland, Aug 30 to Sep 2, 2017.
 - Mini course on “Analysis of Socio-Economic Networks”, Antoine Mandel (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), May 9-12, 2017.
 - Phd Summer School at Nova SBE, Lisbon: “The economics of human capital formation”, Prof. Flávio Cunha (RICE University), June 20-24, 2016.
- RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
- ASER Centre, India**
Research Associate, 2013 to 2015
- ***Bihar Elementary School Study***
Partners: Pratham, UNICEF and Government of Bihar
Project Guide: Dr. Rukmini Banerji
Was involved as a field manager as well as data analyst for this large scale study on outcome based measure of school quality
 - ***Teacher Performance in Bihar, India: Implications for Education***
Partners: The World Bank, Government of Bihar
Project Guide: Dr. Wilima Wadhwa
Worked as a data analyst for this study on benchmarking teacher performance and characteristics for better planing and designing teacher training modules
- STATISTICAL SOFTWARE, DATABASE
- R, STATA
MOSPI, National Sample Surveys (NSS)
Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2005-2014
India Human Development Survey (IHDS) 2004-05, 2011-12
- LANGUAGES
- Proficient:** English, Hindi
Basic: German (A1), Portuguese (A1)

Last updated: December 12, 2020