

Madhuri Agarwal

CONTACT INFORMATION *Email:* madhuri.agarwal@uni-bielefeld.de | *Homepage:* <https://madhuriagarwal.org/>

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*
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”.

- *Indian matchmaking: Impact of a large scale education program*
Co-author: Vikram Bahure, Sayli Javadekar. Available on request
In this paper we estimate the effect of increased female schooling on the marriage market outcomes, specifically, the age of marriage of the woman. We exploit the quasi-random variation created by a large-scale education intervention in India called DPEP. We build a transferable utility framework on the lines of Low (2014), wherein we assume that women are characterised by their education

and age and men are characterised by their income. Since, the labour market returns to education for women are low, our model predicts that women with more education will tend to improve their returns from marriage by finding a match at a younger age. Our empirical findings show that with an increase in female education due to DPEP, the age at marriage decreased by nearly 1.4 years. Contrary to existing evidence that shows a positive relation between female education and delay in marriage, our findings have important implications for policy.

- CONFERENCES
- 46th Annual Conference, AEF2021 (virtual), March 17-19, 2021.
 - 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", Aug 30 to Sep 2, 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
 - ***Teacher Performance in Bihar, India: Implications for Education***
Partners: The World Bank, Government of Bihar
Project Guide: Dr. Wilima Wadhwa
- 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
- TEACHING
- Macroeconomics:** Winter semester, Bielefeld University, 2019,2020
Growth and Distribution: Summer semester, Bielefeld University, 2021

Last updated: July 20, 2021