

Curriculum Vitae

Deepak Varshney

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Education

- 2010-16 Submitted Ph.D. in Economics (September 2016), Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, New Delhi
- Thesis Title:* An Evaluation of the Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- Supervisor:* Prof. J.V.Meenakshi
- Co-Supervisor:* Dr. Deepti Goel
- External Advisor:* Dr. Abhiroop Mukhopadhyaya
- 2005-07 Masters in Economics, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- 2001-04 Bachelors in Economics (Honours), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Uttar Pradesh

Research Fields

Impact Evaluation, Development Economics, Agricultural Economics

Experience

- Sep 2016- Research consultant, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), New Delhi
- Feb 2016-May 2016 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi.
- Jul 2014-Jun 2015 Research Assistant (part time) in the project “Evaluating Food Price Changes and their Impact on Dietary Quality among Rural Households in India”, under the supervision of Prof. J.V.Meenakshi at Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics
- Jun 2007- Sep2010 Research Analyst, National Council of Applied Economics Research, New Delhi, India
Project: An Evaluation of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, Government of India

Fellowships and Awards

- Apr 2012 –Apr 2015 Centre for Development Economics (CDE) research support for Doctoral students

Jun 2012

Qualified UGC NET for teaching

Workshops

- 2014 Participated in the 3rd IZA Doctoral Workshop between 22-26 September in Georgetown University in Washington D.C., USA
- 2014 Participated in a one day “IEO-3ie Workshop: Evaluating MGNREGS” on 15th May at Independent Evaluation Office, Government of India, New Delhi

Conference Presentations

- 2016 Policy Dialogue on Gender-Just Food and Nutrition Security in India, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), New Delhi
- 2015 11th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi
- 2015 10th Annual Conference Winter School 2015, Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, New Delhi
- 2014 10th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi
- 2014 3rd IZA Doctoral Workshop, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2014 Conference on “MGNREGA: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead” at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in collaboration with Cornell University and IFPRI, funded by 3ie
- 2013 Winter School, Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

Abstracts of Thesis Papers

MGNREGA's Impact on Agricultural Outcomes and the Rural Labour Market

This paper is motivated by concerns about potential adverse impact of the MGNREGA on agriculture that may occur by bidding up the price of labour, leading to its scarcity, and thereby inducing shifts in cropping patterns. Cropping patterns may change also if aggregate irrigation availability improves as a consequence of the investments in water infrastructure made by the MGNREGA. A district level panel dataset is used to study impacts of the scheme on gross irrigated area, agricultural wages, cropping patterns and crop yields. Next, unit-record data from the NSS Employment Unemployment Surveys are used to estimate impacts on time spent across various employment categories and on casual wages. Identification is achieved using a difference-in-difference approach, where districts are matched using propensity scores; the use of propensity scores represents a novel aspect of this paper. Pre-programme trends for each impact variable provide a check on the validity of the impact estimates we compute.

Impact of MGNREGA on Cropping patterns and Labour Use: An Analysis from a Primary Survey in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

This paper examines the impact of MGNREGA on cropping patterns and labour use at the village level, motivated by the same concerns as outlined in the first paper. The database for the analysis comes from a primary survey of 720 households in Dholpur and Karauli districts in Rajasthan, and Barabanki and Sonbhadra districts in Uttar Pradesh, which included a specific module on pre-MGNREGA cultivation patterns based on recall. The empirical strategy exploits the non-uniform implementation of MGNREGA and compares outcomes in high-treatment villages with those in low-treatment villages, using a difference-in-difference framework, to identify causal effect. The study finds an evidence of shift in cropping patterns toward water-intensive crops in Rajasthan. However, for Uttar Pradesh the results are not as strong as was the case for Rajasthan. We find no impact on crop yields in both Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. We find no impact on crop yields in both Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. We find a change in labour use consistent with change in cropping patterns for Rajasthan. For instance, the change in cropping patterns toward water-intensive crops led to higher increase in labour use.

Gender Difference in Wages in Casual Labour Market in India: An analysis of the Impact of MGNREGA

Gender wage gap is an important feature of the labour market. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) mandates a special focus towards employment of women. It also specifies employment at the place of residence, and provides equal wages to males and females. The first objective of this paper is to examine the evolution of gender wage gaps for the period 2004/5 through 2011/12. Next, it studies whether any change in gender wage gaps over the same period may be attributed to the MGNREGA. As in the first paper, this analysis also uses nationally representative unit record data of Employment and Unemployment Survey of National Sample Survey (NSS), Government of India, and used triple difference with matching (TDM) to estimate the effect of MGNREGA on gender wage gaps. We find that there is an improvement in female wages vis-à-vis male wages, over the period 2004/5 and 2011/12; however, irrespective of whether all-India or the better performing, the triple difference estimates of impact are all insignificant.

Field Experience

Jul 2011- Jun 2012 Conducted a household level survey in 24 villages in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for one of my thesis papers as part of another project on the MGNREGA by Dr. Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay.

Data Experience

Employment and Unemployment Survey (NSSO), Area Production Yield (District level, Ministry of Agriculture), MIS (MGNREGA); Consumer Expenditure Survey (NSSO), Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS)

Publications

- 2010 Varshney, Deepak (2010), "Employment and Poverty Linkages in Uttar Pradesh: A Household Level Analysis", Indian Development Review, Vol. 8, No. 1, (January-December, 2010), pp.69-94.
- 2010 Varshney, Deepak (2010), "Targeted Performance of Public Distribution System and Understanding the Distribution of BPL cards in Bihar: An Empirical Analysis", Asian Profile (Canada), Vol.38, No.4, August 2010, pp.357-369.

Software Skills

STATA, SPSS, MS OFFICE

References

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Dr. Deepti Goel, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
Email : deepti@econdse.org

Dr. Abhiroop Mukhopadhyaya, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi
Email : abhiroopm@gmail.com

Date: 1/10/2016

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