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Personal Information:

Date of Birth: 08/15/1986
Sex: Female
Citizenship: Indian

Undergraduate Studies:

University of California, Berkeley, 2004-2008
BA, Highest Distinction in General Scholarship, 2008
Major: Economics (Highest Honors); Second Major: Mathematics, Applied

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2008 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “*Essays on Gender, Intra-Household Allocation and Development*”
Expected Completion Date: May 2014

References:

Professor Rohini Pande
Harvard Kennedy School of Government
rohini_pande@harvard.edu
617-384-5267

Professor Sendhil Mullainathan
Department of Economics, Harvard University
mullain@fas.harvard.edu
617-496-2720

Professor Asim Khwaja
Harvard Kennedy School of Government
akhwaja@hks.harvard.edu
617-384-7790

Teaching and Research Fields:

Development Economics, Behavioral and Experimental Economics

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2012 Economic Development: Theory, Policy and Evidence (graduate), Kennedy School of Government, Teaching Fellow for Professors Dani Rodrik and Rohini Pande
Fall 2011 Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate), Harvard University, Teaching

Spring 2011	Fellow for Professor Jeffrey Miron Economic Development: Theory, Policy and Evidence (graduate), Kennedy School of Government, Teaching Fellow for Professors Dani Rodrik and Rema Hanna
July 2010	Executive Education Program, Teaching Assistant for The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab
Spring 2008	Economic Demography (undergraduate), University of California, Berkeley, Head Undergraduate Grader for Professor Ronald Lee

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2009 - 2010	Research Assistant supervising fieldwork in India and working with research data in Cambridge for Professor Rohini Pande, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
2006 - 2008	Research Assistant on projects in behavioral economics for Professor Stefano DellaVigna, University of California, Berkeley

Professional Activities:

Seminars: *The Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) 2013*

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2013	Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies Seed Grant
2013	Weiss Family Funds
2012 – 2013	Roger L. Martin Cornerstone Graduate Student Fellowship Fund
2010, 2012	LEAP Funds Award, Department of Economics, Harvard University
2010, 2012	Women and Public Policy Program’s Cultural Bridge Fellowship
2012	Research Grant, South Asia Initiative
2010 – 2011	Research Grant, Institute of Quantitative Social Sciences, Harvard University
2010 – 2011	Warburg Funds Award, Department of Economics, Harvard University
2009 – 2010	Government of India Fellowship
2008 – 2013	Harvard Fellowship for graduate studies and Harvard Summer Fellowship
2008	University Medal Finalist, University of California, Berkeley
2007 – present	Phi Beta Kappa - Academic Honor Society

Publications:

Pande R, Cole S, Sivasankaran A, Bastian G, Durlacher K (2012) Does poor people’s access to formal banking services raise their incomes? EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London

Research Papers in Progress:

“Work and Women’s Marriage, Fertility and Empowerment: Evidence from Textile Mill Employment in India” (Job Market Paper)

Women in developing countries are starting to join the workforce in greater numbers, and it has been argued that such exposure can lead to improved outcomes for them. This paper examines whether longer tenure in the formal sector affects female empowerment, marriage and fertility decisions. I exploit plausibly exogenous variation in duration worked from a natural experiment created by a large Indian textile firm’s decision to replace fixed-term contracts with daily employment contracts. Using administrative data from this firm, I find that the more time women were exposed to a fixed-term contract, the longer they stayed in the formal labor market. Surveying 985 workers about 4.5 years after they first entered the textile industry, I find that the women who worked longer delayed marriage, without any detrimental effect on eventual spousal quality. A longer duration of employment also translates to reductions in desired fertility. Further, there are strong spillover effects within the family, as age of marriage increases for younger sisters and school dropout rates decrease for younger brothers. I

find evidence that an increase in female empowerment and autonomy is a plausible channel for these effects. These findings provide new information on the impact of duration of employment outside the parental village for young women in rural areas.

“How does Child Labor respond to changes in Adult Work Opportunities? Evidence from NREGA”

(with Mahnaz Islam)

This paper studies the impact of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in India on schooling and employment outcomes for children. We use several rounds of nationally representative cross-sectional data and panel data for three states from the National Sample Survey (NSS) in India. The NREGA offers 100 days of guaranteed work to rural households with the intention to help households smooth consumption during lean agricultural seasons. NREGA work can only be taken up by adults. Providing employment opportunities to households can affect intra-household allocation of time and resources by changing income and bargaining power. We use the phased roll out of NREGA to different districts and measure the difference-in-difference between districts that received the program early relative to those that received it later. In our analysis we look at the impact on children when adults take-up NREGA work. On one hand, additional income in the household can increase resources spent on children’s education and reduce child labor. However, if wages in the economy increase or adults take-up new jobs child labor could increase. Our results show an increase in time spent on education for younger children and an increase in time spent working outside the household for older children. We also find households shifting away from working in household enterprises, predominantly agricultural activities in our sample.