



सत्यमेव परमो धर्मः

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

University Enclave, University of Delhi (North Campus), Delhi-110 007, INDIA

February 12, 2020

SEMINAR NOTICE

Topic: "Gender Peer Effects in High Schools: Evidence from India"

Speaker/s: Professor Tridip Ray
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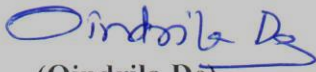
Chair: Professor Ajit Mishra, Director, I.E.G.

The seminar details are as follows:

Date & time: **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020 AT 03.30 P.M.**

Venue: A.M. Khusro Room
Institute of Economic Growth,
Delhi-110 007

All are welcome.


(Oindrila De)

Abstract

This paper presents strong evidence about the existence of gender peer effects in high schools in India using a unique dataset. We use a new administrative dataset from the Central Board of Secondary Education which is the single largest board of education with an all-India presence. Identification of gender peer effects is achieved by exploiting variation induced by idiosyncratic changes in gender composition across cohorts within schools, in addition to controlling for ability and past inputs using a proxy variable. The proportion of female classmates in a student's cohort has a statistically significant and sizable positive effect on test scores of both male and female students. We find that peer effects vary non-linearly with the proportion of female students. Finally, we provide suggestive evidence on plausible mechanisms: some of the heterogeneous effects that we observe (across subject streams, ability and income distribution) suggests that gender peer effects operate primarily through changes in classroom environment rather than through achievement spillovers.