



Centre for Family and Population Research
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

CFPR Lunchtime Seminar Series 2019

An Empirical Examination of Sustainability of Women's Empowerment Using Panel Data from India

In this article, we empirically test the sustainability of women's empowerment using representative and rich individual-level panel data from India for the years 2004-5 and 2011-12. Sustainability is defined in terms of durability (whether empowerment is carried forward or continues in the long run) and diffusion (whether empowerment has positive spillover effects). A domain-based framework is used to capture the multidimensional nature of empowerment. In terms of durability, we find that the headcount ratio of women who are empowered has increased over time. The baseline characteristics that determine empowerment durability are (1) individual capabilities such as age, education, and wage work, (2) asset endowment, and (3) opportunity structure such as access to water, electricity, and owning a toilet. Additionally, we find that a change in collective assets over time is positively and significantly correlated with empowerment durability. Finally, we observe that empowerment has a significant diffusion effect from empowered women to other women in the same household as well as to women who do not coreside but share family ties. These findings imply that empowerment is dynamic and the social benefit of empowering women appears considerably higher than what has been previously estimated when its long-term effects are considered.



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Dr. Namrata Chindarkar is an Assistant Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (NUS) and a faculty associate at the Institute of Water Policy, NUS. She received her Ph.D. from the School of Public Policy, University of Maryland concentrating in international development policy. She holds a M.A. in Development Studies from the University of Manchester, U.K., and a M.Phil. in Social Sciences from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Her research addresses questions pertaining to sustainable development and social policy. Currently, her three key research themes are access to basic infrastructure (energy, water, and sanitation); individual and household welfare (poverty, inequality, food security, subjective well-being); and gender and development. Her methodological approach is applied econometrics and policy impact evaluation using primary, secondary, and administrative policy data.

Chaired by: A/Prof Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan
Dept of Sociology, Deputy Director CFPR, NUS

Date: 15 March 2019 | Time: 12noon - 130pm | Venue: Ventus Evans Room
Refreshments will be served. Registration is required.
Register at <https://tinyurl.com/y8qdhezy>