

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Title: “Macroeconomic Shock and Gender Gap in Health Outcomes: Evidence from India”

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Speaker: Dr. Md Nazmul Ahsan

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Date: April 15th, 2021 10:30am -11:30am

Profile of the speaker:

Dr. Md Nazmul Ahsan is an assistant professor of Economics in the Chaifetz School of Business at Saint Louis University. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Southern California in 2016. His research interests are Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Global Health, and Population Economics.

Abstract:

We utilize the timing of India’s 2016 demonetization policy to examine whether a negative macroeconomic shock disproportionately affects women’s health outcomes relative to men’s health outcomes. Using the National Family Health Survey-4, we find we find that the induced income shock leads to a worsening of the hemoglobin levels of adult women relative to that of adult men. Further, for children under 5, we find that girls’ weight-for-height z-scores deteriorate by about 0.72 s.d. relative to boys’ in households exposed to the shock vis-a-vis the “control” group. An examination of food consumption patterns suggests that the widening of the male-female gap in hemoglobin levels is on account of reduced intake of iron-rich foods by adult females (relative to adult males). For children, the widening male-female gap in weight-for-height seems to be driven by reduced intake of bread and grains by girls (relative to boys).

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/9717236368?pwd=aXlWYjFTeTRlbnUyS2N1aHA0UDhMdz09>

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