

## **Economics Seminar, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi.**

**SPEAKER: Farzana Afridi, Indian Statistical Institute.**

**TITLE: Does female leadership impact on governance and corruption?  
Evidence from a public poverty alleviation program in Andhra Pradesh, India.**

**TIME: 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM**

**DAY & DATE: Friday , 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2012**

**PLACE: Seminar Room 2**

**Abstract:**

We exploit the \*nation-wide\* policy of randomly allocating village council headships to women to identify the impact of female political leadership on the governance of projects implemented under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in Andhra Pradesh, India. Using unique data from a primary survey and from a panel of audit reports on the implementation of projects under the scheme, we find that the likelihood of inefficiencies and leakages are higher in village councils reserved for women. These results are explained by political and administrative inexperience making female headed councils more vulnerable to bureaucratic capture of power. Our findings highlight the importance of capacity building and institutional support to improve the effectiveness of affirmative action policies and bolster women's political participation in developing countries.

<http://www.isid.ac.in/~pu/seminar.html>