

Economics Seminar, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi.

SPEAKER: Hari K. Nagarajan, National Council of Applied Economic Research

TITLE: Can Changes in Inheritance Legislation Improve Female Asset Ownership?
Evidence from India's Hindu Succession Act

TIME: 11:30-1:00 PM

DAY & DATE: Friday, 16th April 2010

PLACE: Seminar Room 2

Abstract:

We use data on inheritance patterns over three generations to assess the impact of changes in the Hindu succession Act in 1994 that grant daughters equal coparcenary birth rights in joint family property that were denied to daughters in the past. The causal effect is isolated by exploiting the variation in the timing of father's death to compare within household bequests of land given to sons and daughters in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka. We show that the amendment significantly increased the probability of daughters inheriting land, but that even after the passage of the amendment, significant bias against females persists. Our results also indicate a significant increase in educational attainment for daughters, suggesting an alternative channel of wealth transfer.

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