

Economics Seminar, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi.

SPEAKER: Mudit Kapoor, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad

TITLE: **Why So Few Women in Politics? Evidence from India.**

TIME: 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM

DAY & DATE: Friday, 18th October, 2013

PLACE: Seminar Room 2

Abstract:

In this paper we analyze women as political candidates in a representative democracy. Using 50 years of assembly elections data at the constituency level from the Indian states, we show that women are more likely to contest elections in those constituencies where gender ratio of the electors is less in favour of women. For example, women are more likely to contest elections in backward states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh where the gender ration of electors is in favour of men than in socially developed states like Kerala where the gender ratio of electors is more in favour of women. We present a “citizen candidates” model of representative democracy and show that our empirical results are consistent with the theoretical predictions of this model. Our results challenge existing policy of random reservation of seats for women.

JEL Classifications: P16, J10, J11

Keywords: gender, median voter, political economy.

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