ECONOMICS STUDY GROUP SEMINAR

Punarjit Roychowdhury
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shall present

“Measuring the Dynamics of the Achievement Gap between Public and Private School Students in India”

Abstract
The academic achievement gap between students attending public and private schools in India has been widely studied. Almost all studies so far have found evidence of private school students outperforming public school students. However, researchers have only focused on the achievement gap in levels without considering the underlying dynamics of how students move through the distribution of achievement over time. This lack of completeness is important since the extent to which policymakers and researchers should concern themselves with the public-private achievement gap should depend how mobile the students are through the test score distribution. This study aims to explore the dynamics of the public-private achievement gap in India by applying nonparametric measures of distributional mobility to panel data on math and Peabody Picture Vocabulary test scores from the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. We find that during early childhood, public school students are at least as mobile as private school students in both upward and downward directions. However, during preadolescence, relative to private school students, public school students are significantly less upwardly mobile and more downwardly mobile. Taken together with the existence of a level gap in test scores, the mobility patterns observed in the data during the preadolescence stage suggests that one would expect to see very little convergence in the distribution of test scores as public and private school students make their way through middle and high school.

Date: Monday, 13th May 2019
Time: 3 pm

Venue: CSSSC’s Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

All are welcome to attend.