

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA

R-1 BAISHNABGHATA PATULI, KOLKATA 700094

ECONOMICS STUDY GROUP SEMINAR

Saheli Bose

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Centre for Training and Research in Public Finance and Policy

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

shall present

Behavioural responses and the impact of environmental knowledge of ponds: Evidence from field experiment in India

Abstract

This study aims to analyse whether households, when made aware about the water quality of ponds in the village neighbourhood and ways to avoid pollution, improves waste management practices. Further the study wants to analyse whether, subsequent to the information campaign, the health outcomes of the treated households improve. The proposed study closely relates to common pool resource public goods game where the contribution of the households involves strategies to avoid or reduce pollution of the neighbourhood pond. There is no conclusive evidence on whether information about environmental quality and its consequences lead households to either mitigate pollution by avoiding polluting activities or abandon the use of ponds altogether. The proposed project is an empirical study that will be carried out by using primary data collected from households located in selected villages in the Indian state of West Bengal during a cluster randomised experiment. To ascertain the causal effect of information campaign on pond water quality, alternative pollution avoidance strategies and health consequences, I will use a difference in difference methodology where the two levels of difference will be the difference in outcomes of treated with the awareness campaign and control households and comparing outcomes of baseline survey with those of the post-intervention survey. The results of the project will therefore provide empirical evidence on whether information campaigns can improve the existing conditions of village ponds. Given that South Asia is a predominantly dry region with rainfall mostly during the monsoon season, the findings of this study are also expected to be relevant for rainwater conservation in rural areas for other regions in India and south Asian region as well.

Date: 3rd May 2023 (Wednesday)

Time: 3 P.M.

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

All are welcome to attend

Dr. Sattwik Santra

(Co-Convener, Seminar Sub-Committee)