

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA

R-1 BAISHNABGHATA PATULI, KOLKATA 700094

ECONOMICS STUDY GROUP SEMINAR

Nikita Sangwan

shall present

Technology, Labour, Social Norms, and Fertility Choices

Nikita Sangwan

Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi)

Abstract

This paper examines how the introduction of agricultural technology, known as the Green Revolution, impacted the sex ratio in rural India--a setting characterized by patrilocal marriage and son preference. The Green Revolution resulted in higher wages for farmers, which in turn increased the value of having a son instead of a daughter as married daughters do not make substantial material contributions to their natal families. Our analysis shows that this led to an exacerbation of male-biased fertility stopping behaviors. To better understand the mechanisms, we construct a life-cycle model that endogenizes sequential fertility choices in a patrilocal setting. Our quantitative results indicate that the Green Revolution can account for about 55% of the increase in male bias in the population sex ratio. We also conducted counterfactual exercises and found that a formal social security system may play an important role in reducing the male bias in population sex ratio. This research highlights the need to consider societal structures when assessing the impact of technological progress on economic growth.

Date: 21st December 2023 (Thursday)

Time: 3 P.M.

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

All are welcome to attend

Dr. Sattwik Santra

(Co-Convener, Seminar Sub-Committee)