

Affirmative Action and Quality of Governance: Evidence from Utilization of Funds in Village Councils of India

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Abstract

To increase the number of individuals from disadvantaged sections of the population (women, individuals of specific groups and ethnicities) in leadership positions, several countries have introduced affirmative action policies. These quotas require a certain proportion of leadership positions to be held by individuals from disadvantaged groups. How do these affirmative action policies affect development outcomes? We examine this question in the context of the implementation of the national public works program in India. Village councils were randomly allocated to be headed by women. Using a number of variables that capture the effectiveness in the administration of the scheme, we find that male heads are consistently more effective compared to female heads. Our results pose serious questions about the efficacy of affirmative action policies in the context of program implementation.

Speaker Profile

Dr. Subhasish Dey currently is a Lecturer at the Economics department of University of York, UK. From 11th January 2019 he will start working as a Senior Lecturer (Tenured) in the Economics department of University Warwick. Dr. Dey completed his PhD in Economics from University of Manchester in July 2016 and before that he completed MA from Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Dr. Dey is an applied micro economist working in the field of Development Economics and Political Economy. He has won couple of best teaching awards in University of Manchester and University of York in 2015 and 2018 respectively. In recent years Dr. Dey has won few small research grants including Royal Economic Society, UK small research grants.