

PROPOSAL: THE IMPACT OF WOMEN POLITICIANS ON GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND CHILD OUTCOMES IN INDIA

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Since 1993 India has decentralized the provision of village-level public goods to local village governments. These governments consist of elected councilors, and a number of studies show that they have affected the choice of public goods and their targeting towards different groups. Research Assistance is needed for an ongoing household survey in West Bengal which examines how the requirement that a randomly chosen set of villages elect a female as the head village councilor (Pradhan) has affected male and female villagers attitudes about gender roles, and child outcomes. The household survey, which will be mostly completed by the summer, covers over 7000 households. Working with the survey data offers a student a unique opportunity to see how field surveys are run, and data collected analyzed. The topic of research assistance should be of most interest to those with interests in development economics, especially the political economy of development

The research assistant's tasks would involve some data cleaning and programming. **It will be essential that the student has working knowledge of Excel and STATA.** He/she will learn how to use datasets for research analysis, and get acquainted with how fieldwork is done in developing countries. He/she will also have the opportunity to work on managing ongoing surveys in India.