

Seminar Notice

Husband's Migration for Work and Wife's Autonomy: Some Evidence from rural West Bengal

Speaker

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Date and Time

16 February 2024, 3.30 PM

Venue

Seminar Room, Fifth Floor, IDSK

Abstract:

West Bengal, which was once a major net in-migrant state, has experienced a large scale of male migration from its agriculturally depressed regions in the last two to three decades. Many of these male migrants are married and compelled to shift to migration destinations without family - leaving behind their wives and children in native villages. While improved economic conditions of the households after husbands' migration have been noted in a range of studies, the issue of autonomy and decision-making power of left-behind wives has hardly been studied in the context of rural India. This paper finds that husbands' migration does have an overall positive effect on women's decision-making power and exposure to digital media. However, the evidence on financial autonomy is mixed. Contrary to the findings of some other studies, husbands' migration has been found not to have a significant effect on women's participation in joining regular work for earnings and self-help groups. The migration of husbands has a mixed impact on left-behind wives' political participation.

Sd/-

Simantini Mukhopadhyay
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