

ECON 460: Women, Work, and the World Economy

Reading Guide: “Do Labor Market Opportunities Affect Young Women’s Work and Family Decisions? Experimental Evidence from India”

Professor Robert Jensen’s article is relatively non-technical for an economics paper. You should be able to read it straight through, but you may want to take extra time to review the regression specifications and empirical results after your first reading. Answer the following questions after you finish reading the article:

1. What is the main hypothesis that Professor Robert Jensen tests in this article?
2. What is the intervention? What services were provided to individuals in treatment villages?
3. What is the BPO sector? Why might women have a comparative advantage in BPO jobs?
4. How many women in the sample were working in the BPO sector at baseline?
5. How was the sample constructed? How many villages are included in the sample? How large are the villages, on average?
6. What are the main regression specifications used in the analysis?
7. How does the treatment, providing assistance applying to BPO jobs, impact the likelihood of working in the BPO sector for men and women?
8. How does treatment change women’s beliefs about their future labor force participation?
9. How does treatment impact investments in girls’ human capital?
10. How does treatment change patterns of marriage and fertility?