

Essays on Labour Market Outcomes in India

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Abstract

Research on marginalized groups and employment outcomes has picked up since the mid-2000s. This dissertation is an attempt to understand certain labour market outcomes in India that are important, yet relatively under-researched. The questions that arise in this context are dealt with in four independent chapters.

-wage

work promote their empowerment? In this context, this chapter further analyses the role of

-making power

in the household. The second essay focusses on another issue that is important in the context of growing inequality, and one on which relatively few detailed studies exist - the topic of occupational mobility in India. This chapter analyses the link between the occupational status of fathers and their sons and also examines the factors associated with occupational mobility among men in India. The third and fourth essays in this dissertation are an effort to understand certain aspects of self-employment in India. The third essay examines the differences in the earnings of Muslims and other social groups in self-employment. The fourth essay highlights descriptive evidence related to female self-employment in India and

-employment. A brief outline of the chapters in this dissertation

is provided below.

The first essay, using the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) data, empirically examines

empowerment, defined by their decision-making power in the household. Female employment, especially paid work outside the home, has often been claimed to provide a

For women working inside the home, however, mobility is limited. Given that unwaged or home-based work is a less visible form of work, it would be interesting to explore the relation between -wage work (family

farm/household business) and their empowerment. The results in this chapter suggest that the effect is strongest in case of wage/salaried

work. Controlling for endogeneity, we find that in rural areas there is no significant impact of -wage work on their empowerment. A striking aspect of self-

employment in India is the high proportion of women as unpaid family workers in both rural and urban areas.

. The results provide support for this claim;

nationally representative IHDS data. The analysis highlights that sons of fathers employed in higher ranked occupations are more likely to be employed in such occupations. Further, a multinomial logit specification is used to examine how individual, household and village characteristics are related to occupational mobility outcomes among men in India. The results in this chapter suggest that improved village transport infrastructure has implications for mobility outcomes in rural India. The results also indicate that fluent English speakers in

any, extends to self-employment. The analysis in this chapter suggests that after controlling for various characteristics, there is a significant earnings difference between Hindu Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SCSTs) and Muslims, with the former faring worse. Further, we find that membership in networks is positively associated with the income of Muslim-owned businesses

Among self-employed women, an analysis across social groups indicates that the proportion of workers seeking or being available for additional/alternative work is the highest among Muslims. The analysis in this chapter suggests that self-employed women who are primarily engaged in domestic duties express a willingness to accept work if suitable work opportunities are made available. Further, a large proportion of these women across most social groups report lack of initial finance as a major constraint in taking up their preferred activity.