does quality of education really matter for school-choice
-a case study of new delhi, india

applied field experience presentation

sayan kundu
rutgers university: edward j. bloustein school of public policy
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ROADMAP

- Introducing The Agency – Centre For Civil Society
- Overview of Projects
- Detailed Discussion on Education Policy Research
- Contextualizing Coursework & Career Objectives
- Q&A
INTRODUCING THE AGENCY

• Based in New Delhi, India
• India’s Leading Liberal Think Tank
• Education and Livelihood Policies
OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

• Published Working Paper on Education Policy
• Published Working Paper on Livelihood Policy for Street Vendors
RESEARCH REGARDING EDUCATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Does Quality of Education Really Matter for School-choice?

- Topic of Research
- Brief Introduction to Indian Education Policies
- Differentiating Budget Private School (BPS) and Free Government Schools
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CONTEXT

- Testing “Revealed Preferences” against “Preferences”
- Wide-Scale Assumption Regarding “Quality of Education” Driving School-Choice
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RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

Research Questions

• What factors are important for school-choice for parents in low-income families?
• For parents sending their children to BPS, what factors drove their decision?

Hypothesis

• It is “socio-economic factors” rather than “educational factors” that drives school-choice decision of parents.
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METHODODOLOGY

- Focus Group with BPS Principals
- Semi-Structured Interview with Parents
- Survey
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FINDINGS

• 51% Girls, 49% Boys
• 52% Government Schools, 48% BPS
• 75% Boys to BPS, 74% Girls to Government Schools
• 70% Boys to BPS, 62% Girls to Government Schools: Non-Poor Families
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FINDINGS

Top Five Relevant Factors in School Choice

- Financial Constraints *
- Academic Performance
- Distance *
- Community Cohesiveness *
- Attentive Teachers and Discipline
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FINDINGS

Top Five Relevant Factors for BPS Parents

• Academic Performance
• Distance *
• English Medium
• Attentive Teachers and Discipline
• Common Perception *
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DISCUSSING THE FINDINGS

• Socio-Economic Factors Drive School-Choice
• Academic Factors Find Relevance in Socio-Economic Context
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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

• Reduced Fee or Voucher Program for Girl Child
• Incremental Discounts
• Reform Private Sector Entry into Schooling System
• Pickup and Drop Services
CONTEXTUALIZING COURSEWORK

- Concentration: Research Methods – Quantitative and Qualitative
- Coursework
  - Methods I & II
  - Advanced Qualitative Methods
  - Social Policy in Developing Nations
  - Survey Research
  - Political Economics
  - Program Evaluation *
  - Discrete Choice Methods *
  - Advanced Quantitative Methods *
CAREER OBJECTIVES

- Ph.D. – Political Economy of Social Policies in Conflict and Post-Conflict Economies
- Applied Research, Bureaucracy, Active Politics
THANK YOU!
Q&A