

Book comments:
Gender Equality and Inequality in
Rural India

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June 5th, 2014

Great Book! main thesis

Despite socioeconomic progress in Gove, India from 1975-2008, son preference remains prevalent. It is associated with:

- Inheritance law and land holding
- Youth's aspirations (social norms)
- Widows expectation of support from sons and brothers

Issues the Book could expand on

1. Is son preference specific to Gove or it can be generalized to Rural India?

- Excess female child mortality (Das Gupta et al. 2009, JDS)
- More childcare and vitamins to sons in India (Barcello, 2014, AEJ)
- Persistent Domestic Violence (WHO Report, 2013)

2. Can the prevalence of son preference diminish in India?

- Diversification of rural income (Kumar et al. 2011,X)
- Quotas for female village leaders: (Beaman et al, 2011, SM)
- Exposure to cable television reduces son preference (Jensen and Oster, 2008)
- Better Job Opportunities for Women: (Jensen, 2011, QJE)

3. Issues for further clarification

- Economic development and income in Grove
- Construction of Social and Economic Empowerment Index
- Education and status of women
- Migration and Women (CWDS)

1.-Evidence on Son Preference (1)

Excess female child mortality

FIGURE 2 Trends in m/f ratios in under-5-year child mortality rates, China and India



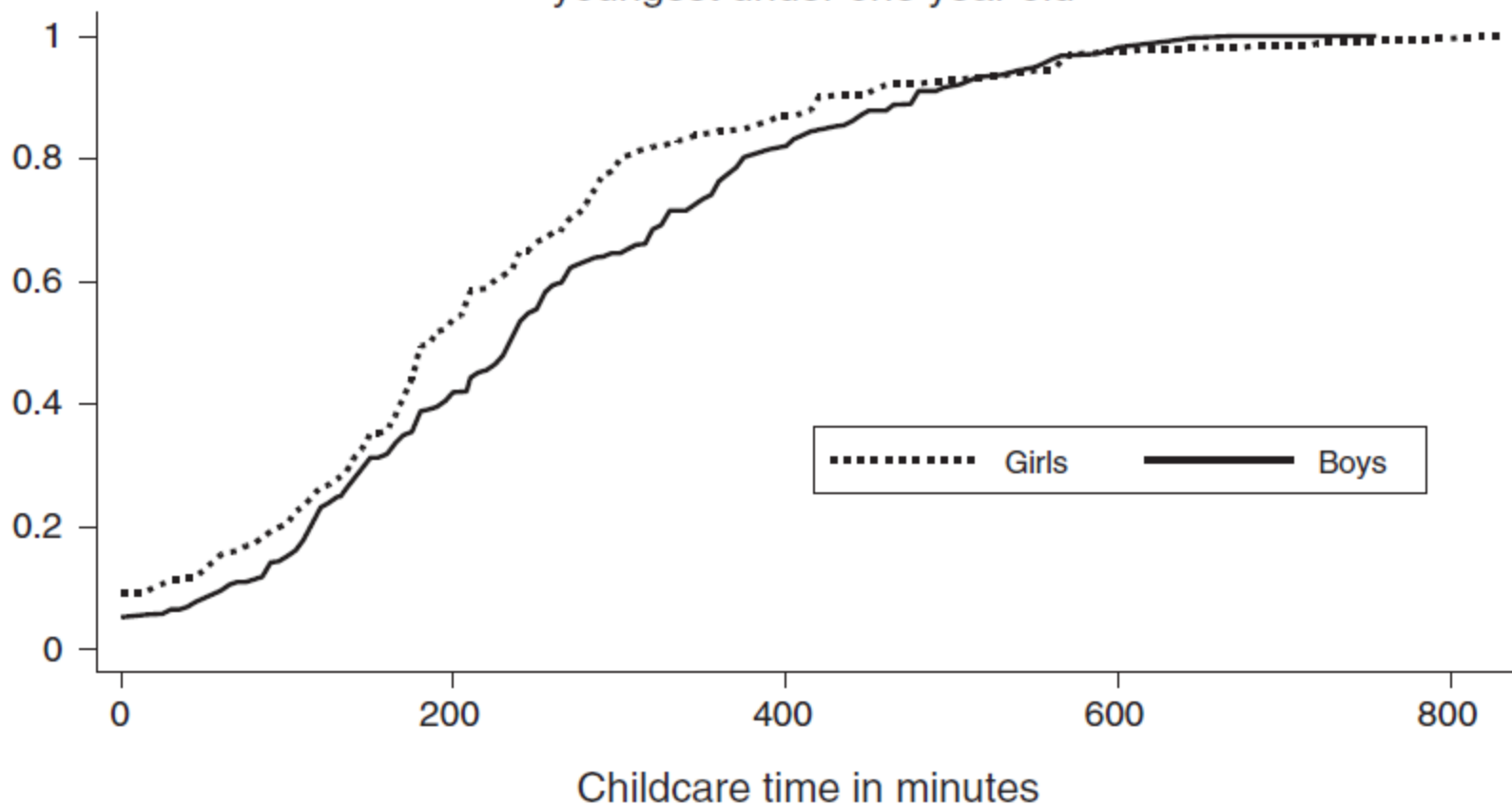
SOURCE: Table 1.

Source: Das Gupta et al (2009)

1.- Evidence on Son Preference (2)

Boys receive more childcare than girls

Cumulative distribution of childcare time by the sex of the youngest child, youngest under one year old



Source: Barcellos, 2014.

1.- Evidence on son preference (3)

High Incidence of Domestic Violence

	Cuts, bruises, or aches		Eye injuries, sprains, Dislocations, or burns		Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or any other serious injury		Any of these injuries		Number of ever married women	
	Nepal 2011	India 2005-06	Nepal 2011	India 2005-06	Nepal 2011	India 2005-06	Nepal 2011	India 2005-06	Nepal 2011	India 2005-06
Physical										
Ever	44.1	38.4	12.3	9.4	11.6	6.9	44.9	40	746	23,364
In past 12 months	52.8	43.6	16.9	11.4	14.5	8.1	53.5	45.7	337	13,680
Sexual										
Ever	32.7	43.2	11.5	16.1	11	12	33	45.7	460	6,640
In past 12 months	38.6	40.8	13.9	15.5	13.6	11.4	38.9	43.5	250	4,635
Physical or Sexual										
Ever	36.8	36.4	10.1	8.9	9.7	6.5	37.5	38	909	24,772
In past 12 months	42.3	40.4	13.2	10.5	11.7	7.5	42.9	42.3	454	15,319

Source: WHO,2013 based on DHS

2.- Can son preference diminish over time (1)

Diversifying away from land

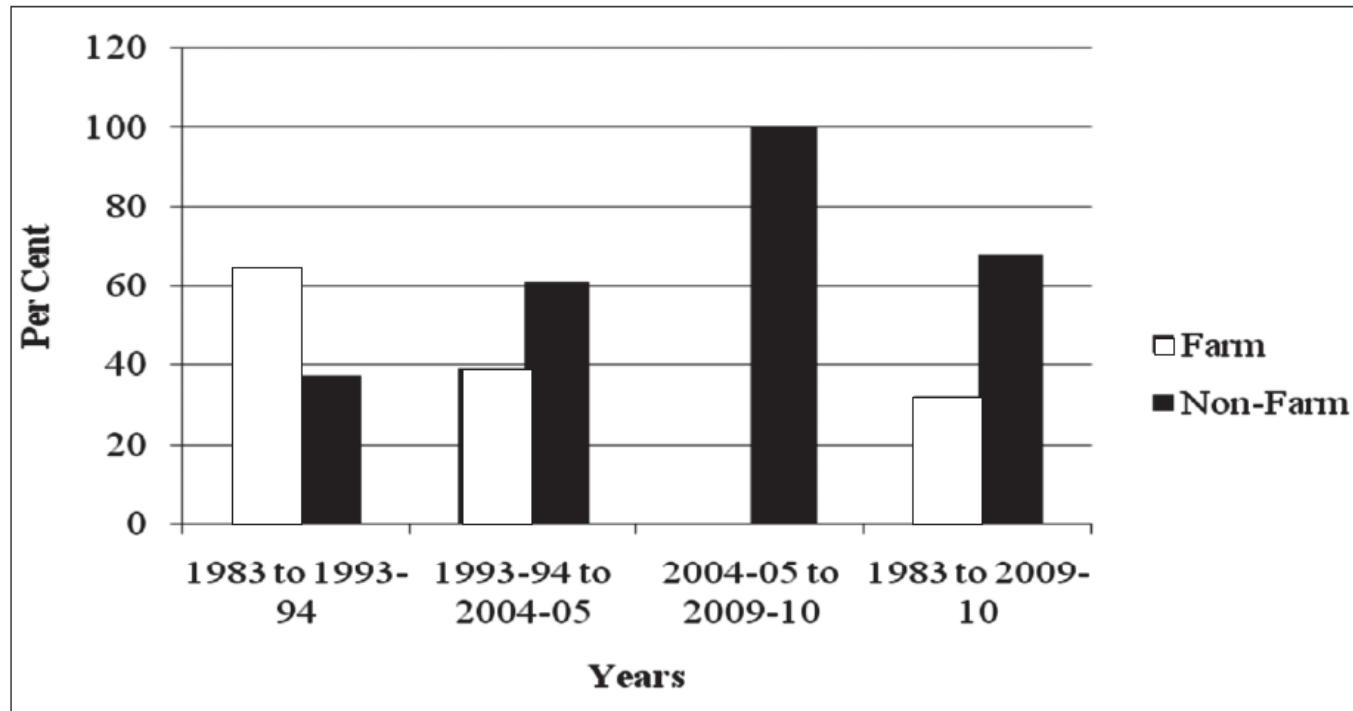
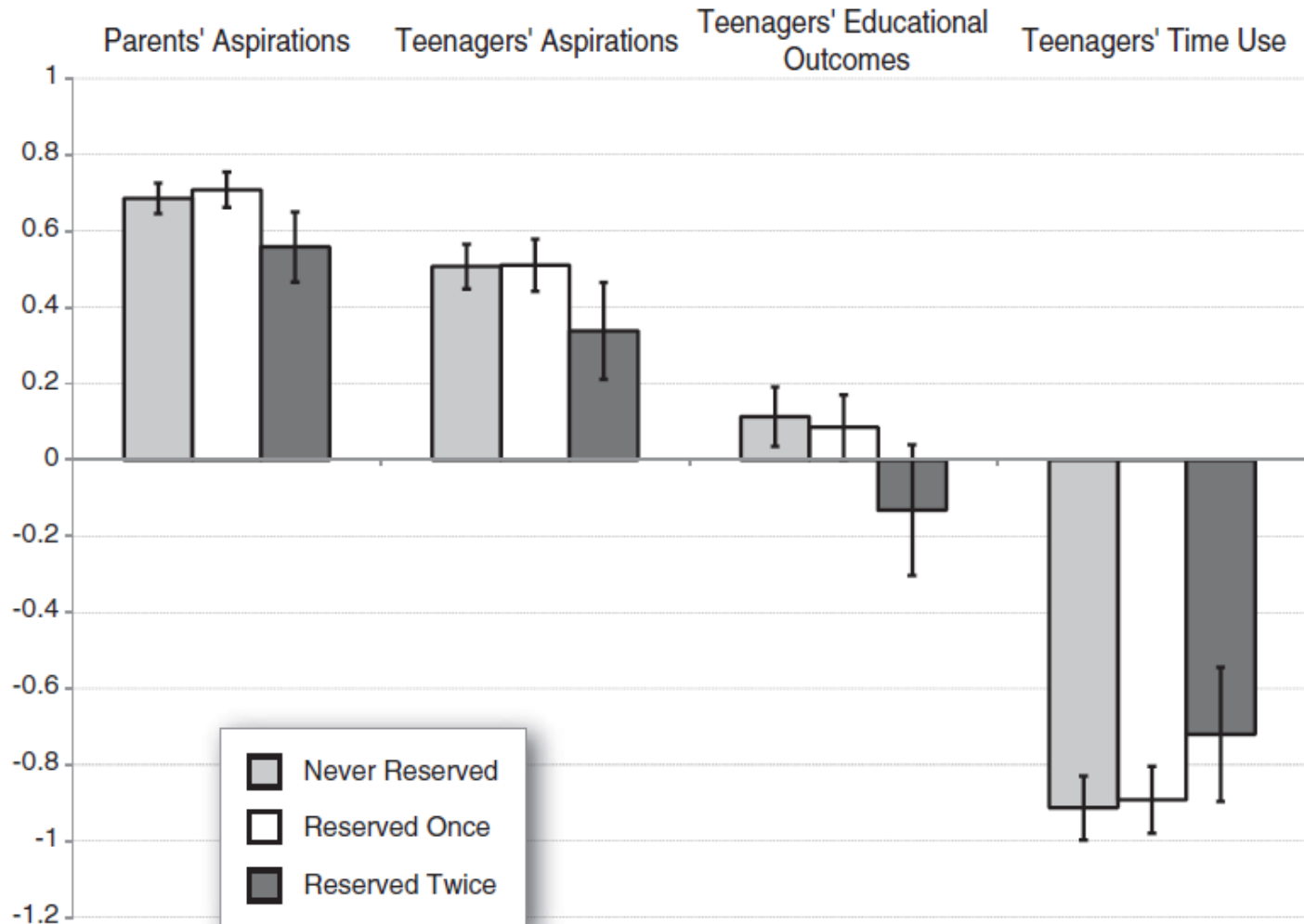


Figure1. Sources of new jobs in rural India: 1983 to 2009-10

Source: Kumar et al, 2011

2.- Can son preference diminish over time (2)

Quotas for female leaders increases aspirations



Source: Beaman et al, 2011

2.- Can son preference diminish over time (3a)

Effect of Training on Employment

EFFECT OF THE INTERVENTION ON EMPLOYMENT, BY AGE AT ROUND 2

	BPO employment			Works for pay away from home		
	(1) 18–24	(2) 25–44	(3) 45–60	(4) 18–24	(5) 25–44	(6) 45–60
<i>Panel A: Women</i>						
Treatment	0.046*** (0.008)	0.003 (0.003)	~	0.024** (0.011)	0.0029 (0.0089)	–0.006 (0.014)
Observations	1,278	2,233	1,029	1,278	2,233	1,029
Control group mean	0.004	0.002	0.00	0.21	0.24	0.22
R^2	0.022	0.000	~	0.054	0.001	0.000

Source: Jensen, 2012

2.- Can son preference diminish over time (3b)

Effect of Training on Family

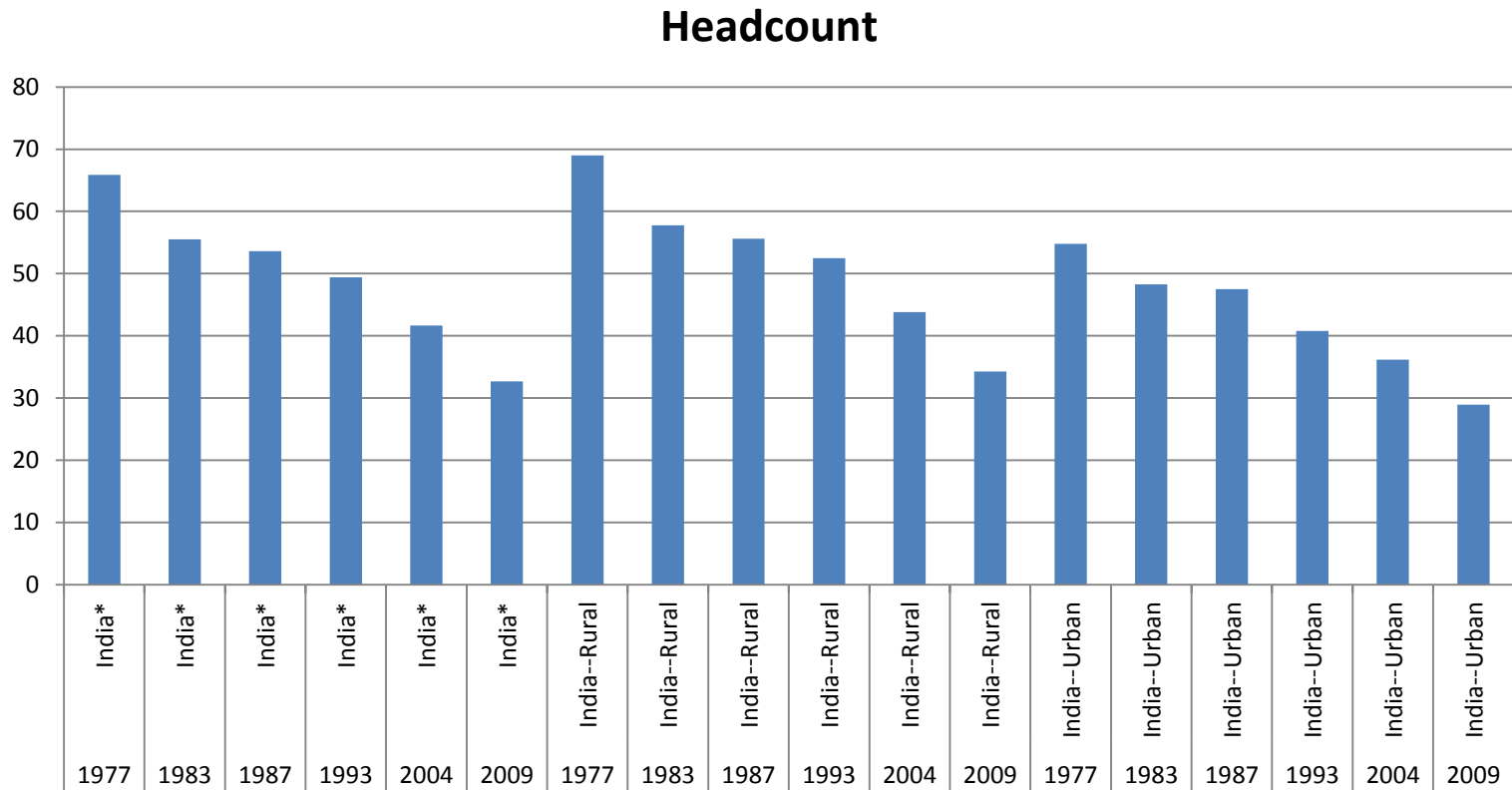
EFFECT OF THE INTERVENTION ON MARRIAGE AND FERTILITY, AGES 18–24 IN ROUND 2

	(1) Married	(2) Had child	(3) Desired fertility
<i>Panel A: Women</i>			
Treatment	−0.051** (0.024)	−0.057** (0.026)	−0.35*** (0.078)
R^2	0.003	0.003	0.018
Observations	1,278	1,278	1,226
Control group mean	0.71	0.43	3.0

Source: Jensen, 2012

3.- Issues for clarification (1)

Poverty decreased but stagnated in Gove



Source: PovCalNet

3.- Issues for clarification (2)

Construction of Index

- Social and Economic Empowerment Indices may be correlated.
 - Literacy may be correlated with the job a person holds
 - Economic Empowerment does not seem significant in some estimations (page 85)
- Why is female wage labor penalized? (lowest level Economic Empowerment scale)

3.- Issues for clarification (3)

Can education improve the status of women?

It is argued for more education for girls but

- Education was NOT perceived as a good investment beyond household activities
- More education may delay marriage but also may increase dowry
- More educated females and upper castes seem to exhibit a higher preference for boys (number of living daughters was higher among lower castes, despite several factors, what is driving this?)

3.- Issues for clarification (4)

Migration and Women

Comparing results with the CWDS Census of Villages (2009-11)

- The CWDS shows a lot of internal mobility. Women migrants constituted about 39% of the labour migrants from the village survey way above the 10% from NSS.
- Limited diversification of female occupations, more concentration in traditional areas (e.g paid domestic work in urban areas).

4.- Summary

1. Professor Vlassoff's book very relevant to further understand drivers of Gender Equality in India

Rich longitudinal data (individual and community)

2. Bank actively working on areas which are critical for Gender

- Large-scale rural livelihood programs empowering women
- Multiple instruments for GBV (knowledge, awareness building, advocacy)
- Female labor force participation
- Education for girls

Thank you!