



Talk: Convergence in Education Infrastructure in India: Evidence from District level Data

Speaker:
Suraj Jacob, James Madison University

Date / Time:
December 11, 2013 - 11:30am - 1:00pm

Venue:
Room No 206, Pixel B, Azim Premji University

Abstract:

This talk explores change in publicly provided education infrastructure in rural India between 1971 and 2001. Using district level census data, an effort is made to document patterns of convergence in the number of primary and secondary schools. There is strong evidence for convergence across districts for both levels of schooling: districts with fewer schools in 1971 have reduced the gap by almost a two-third for secondary schools, and by a fifth for primary schools. Further, this overall convergence masks significant cross-state variation with districts in some states displaying stronger convergence than those in others. Finally, it is also found that states with greater expenditures on primary education and higher Gini coefficients seem to experience greater convergence in the number of primary schools across districts.

A Note on the Speaker:

Suraj Jacob teaches in the Justice Studies department at James Madison University. His research and teaching focus on the intersections of poverty, politics, conflict and public policy, particularly in India.