

IIM Trichy Research Seminar Series

Central to the academic life is the spirit of enquiry, conversation and debate. The primary intention of the IIM Trichy Research Seminar Series is to nurture this spirit amongst the Fellow Program (FP) community. This initiative was conceptualized by and is administered by the FP students.



Session 18

Date: 6th November 2020, Time: 4:30 PM

Financial Inclusion: The Curious Case of Missing Middle-Class Women

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Category: Work in Progress

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Abstract

Women play a significant role in improving the various macroeconomic indicators of a country, and hence there has been a marked push to bring women under the net of formal financial structure. Despite repeated efforts for universal access to financial systems and financial inclusion, we posit that there remains a section of women who have been ignored by such policies and programmes. In this research work, we categorize the women into three broad categories: (1) an empowered first child, (2) a loved last child, and (3) an ignored middle child. Women belonging to the first group are the ones who are typically belonging to the upper class, have sufficient education, and are into some formal paying job. Women belonging to the second group typically belong to the economically weaker sections and are financially supported by the government either through MNAREGA or direct benefit transfers. We posit that these two groups are largely financially included. However, we argue that the third group, the ignored middle child, in the group of women who belong to the middle class, mostly educated but largely dependent on their husbands for financial support. We empirically show in this essay that in India this group exists, is sufficiently large and if attention is not paid, they will be left behind.

<u>Broad Theme of Discussion</u>	<u>The Inquisitives</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision of choosing variables • Choice of regression for analysis • Reporting R square values in regression analysis 	 <p><i>Prof. Sujeet (ISA Area)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of the 2015 and 2018 data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Panel data 	 <p><i>Prof. Vinu (OM & DS)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to redefine Active Finance Inclusion • Checking Multicollinearity in the data • Upward Bias and Self-reported data 	 <p><i>Prof. Sirish (OM & DS)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub division of socio-economic status within country especially the middle class. 	 <p><i>Anindya (Finance)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem with choosing “Marital Status” as control variable for the study 	 <p><i>Seema (ISA)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing proper proxy for defined groups • Movement of population from low income to middle income group • Consideration of Gender as a variable of interest in study 	 <p><i>Goutam (Economics)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting for the possibility of Type 1 and Type 2 errors 	 <p><i>Meenakshi (ISA)</i></p>