# Impacts of (improving) employment guarantee schemes on the broader economy 

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- Public workfare programs are among the more common forms of anti-poverty programs in developing countries
- Long history, from 18th century India to Depression-era US (WPA)
- More recently - EGS in Maharashtra in 1980s, modern programs in India (Khera 2011), Africa (World Bank 2015), and elsewhere
- India's NREGS is the world's largest, covering $\sim 11 \%$ of the world's population
- Policy debate often revolves around their impacts on the broader economy: seen alternatively as a threat to distort or as a means to discipline the private sector
- Productivity channel through the creation of public assets
- Demand channel through shocks to local purchasing power
- Labor market channel through competition for workers


## Challenges

- Data: limited evidence to date on impacts on key outcomes such as income/poverty
- Identification: a few quasi-experimental strategies available, not generally allowing for effects that "spill over" across administrative boundaries
- Construct validity: weak and highly-varied implementation quality, especially in early years (Mehrotra 2008; Imbert-Papp 2011, Niehaus-Sukhtankar 2013), make it difficult to interpret varying estimated effects of "the program"


1. Smartcards unambiguously improved program implementation

- Smartcards itself was implemented for $\sim 50 \%$ of payments by endline
- The payment process improved: faster (29\%), less time-consuming ( $20 \%$ ), and more predictable (39\%)
- Leakage fell substantially: 13.9 percentage point reduction ( $\sim 41 \%$ )
- Perceived access to and actual participation in NREGS increased
- User preferences were strongly in favor of Smartcards ( $\sim 90 \%$ )

2. No change in total NREGS fund flow into treated mandals
3. We can interpret our results as impacts of significantly improving the effective presence of NREGS on the ground

- Other channels likely to be second order
- Pensions: much lower coverage ( $7 \%$ of rural pop. v.s. $50 \%$ for NREGS); intentionally targeted to those not able to work
- General "financial inclusion": bank accounts were not connected to core banking servers; only $0.3 \%$ of households reported positive balances


## Modelling spatial exposure to treatment



This figure illustrates the construction of measures of spatial exposure to treatment for a given panchayat $p$ (denoted by the black X symbol) and radius $r$ in a treatment mandal (A) and a control mandal (B). Dark (light) blue dots represent treatment (control) panchayats; black lines represent mandal borders

## Cardinal effects on annualized household income

Income gains: Survey

|  | Total | NREGA | Wage labor | Self <br> employment | Misc. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Adjusted TE $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 9579^{* *} \\ (4539) \\ \{4548\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1295 \\ (1061) \\ \{1154\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7607^{* * *} \\ (2720) \\ \{2968\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -769 \\ (3192) \\ \{3131\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2502 \\ (2474) \\ \{2488\} \end{gathered}$ |
| Main effect ( $\beta_{T}$ ) | $\begin{gathered} 9030^{* *} \\ (3670) \\ \{3483\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1005^{*} \\ (584) \\ \{619\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 6804^{* * *} \\ (2130) \\ \{2228\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1123 \\ (2681) \\ \{2602\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 872 \\ (2018) \\ \{1959\} \end{gathered}$ |
| Nbhd effect $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 550 \\ (2654) \\ \{2081\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 289 \\ (804) \\ \{827\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 803 \\ (1099) \\ \{1133\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -1892 \\ & (1791) \\ & \{1650\} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1629 \\ (1699) \\ \{1277\} \end{gathered}$ |
| Baseline | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Control mean | 69,122.1 | 4,743.4 | 24,120.2 | 26,563.1 | 13,695.4 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ | . 039 | . 015 | . 053 | . 015 | . 013 |
| Observations | 4,823 | 4,856 | 4,857 | 4,857 | 4,857 |

- Distribution of earnings per day by source
$\wedge$ NREGS earnings per day


## Wages and employment

|  | Wage |  | Employment |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) <br> Reservation wage | (2) <br> Wage realization | (3) <br> Days selfemployed or not working | (4) <br> Days worked in NREGS | (5) <br> Days worked in private sector |
| Adjusted TE $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 6.9^{* *} \\ (3.2) \\ \{3.5\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 13^{* * *} \\ (4.3) \\ \{4.6\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -2.4^{* * *} \\ (.79) \\ \{.81\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.3^{* *} \\ & (.55) \\ & \{.56\} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.4^{*} \\ & (.8) \\ & \{.78\} \end{aligned}$ |
| Main effect ( $\beta_{T}$ ) | $\begin{aligned} & 5.8^{* *} \\ & (2.8) \\ & \{2.9\} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 8.8^{* *} \\ & (3.6) \\ & \{3.6\} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -1.5^{* *} \\ (.59) \\ \{.6\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .89^{*} \\ & (.47) \\ & \{.51\} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} .74 \\ (.57) \\ \{.57\} \end{gathered}$ |
| Nbhd effect $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.1 \\ (1.7) \\ \{1.7\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4.3^{*} \\ & (2.4) \\ & \{2.6\} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.95^{* *} \\ \{.42) \\ \{.41\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .39 \\ (.27) \\ \{.24\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .71^{*} \\ & (.4) \\ & \{.38\} \end{aligned}$ |
| Control mean | 97.2 | 127.9 | 17.3 | 4.5 | 7.9 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ | . 054 | . 076 | . 073 | . 076 | . 020 |
| Observations | 12,677 | 7,016 | 13,951 | 14,009 | 14,278 |

- Time allocation

Labor market models

- Additional labor market results



## Effects on earnings

Income brackets and marginal effects: SECC

|  | Lowest bracket $(<\text { Rs. } 5,000)$ | Middle bracket (Rs. 5,000-10,000) | Highest bracket ( $>$ Rs. 10,000) | Income bracket 3 levels |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Adjusted TE $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} -.028^{*} \\ (.017) \\ {[.084]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .025^{*} \\ (.014) \\ {[.03]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .0034 \\ (.0069) \\ {[.42]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.026 \\ & (.017) \end{aligned}$ |
| Main effect ( $\beta_{T}$ ) | $\begin{gathered} -.032^{* *} \\ (.014) \\ {[.02]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .024^{* *} \\ (.011) \\ {[0]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .0078 \\ (.0055) \\ {[.29]} \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(.014)}{-.031^{* *}}$ |
| Nbhd effect $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} .0038 \\ (.0087) \\ {[.4]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .0019 \\ (.0064) \\ {[0]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.0051 \\ (.0043) \\ {[.34]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .0053 \\ & (.009) \end{aligned}$ |
| Control Mean Adjusted $R^{2}$ Observations | $\begin{gathered} .8 \\ .016 \\ 1.8 \mathrm{M} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .1 \\ .016 \\ 1.8 \mathrm{M} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .0 \\ .030 \\ 1.8 \mathrm{M} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .013 \\ 1.8 \mathrm{M} \end{gathered}$ |

## Effects on non-agricultural employment and enterprise

|  | All sectors | Livestock | Manufacturing and construction | Wholesale and retail | Other |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Panel A: Number of employees |  |  |  |  |  |
| Adjusted TE $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 3307^{* *} \\ (1554) \\ {[.089]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 294 \\ (246) \\ {[.19]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 909^{*} \\ (465) \\ {[.13]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 836 \\ (554) \\ {[.15]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1268^{* *} \\ (616) \\ {[.12]} \end{gathered}$ |
| Main effect $\left(\beta_{T}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 2251^{* *} \\ (1101) \\ {[.1]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 113 \\ (212) \\ {[.33]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 588^{*} \\ (313) \\ {[.14]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 764^{*} \\ (398) \\ {[.1]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 786^{*} \\ (435) \\ {[.17]} \end{gathered}$ |
| Nbhd effect $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 1056 \\ (826) \\ {[.2]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 182 \\ (191) \\ {[.16]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 320 \\ (280) \\ {[.22]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 71 \\ (317) \\ {[.41]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 483 \\ (339) \\ {[.2]} \end{gathered}$ |
| Control mean | 6796.7 | 1711.5 | 1439.9 | 1219.2 | 2426.1 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ Observations | $\begin{gathered} 0.165 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.518 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.164 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.115 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.122 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ |
| Panel B: Number of enterprises |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Adjusted TE } \\ & \left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1095^{*} \\ & (575) \\ & {[.085]} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 177 \\ (134) \\ {[.18]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 167 \\ (176) \\ {[.28]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 327 \\ (227) \\ {[.13]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 423^{* *} \\ (214) \\ {[.093]} \end{gathered}$ |
| Main effect $\left(\beta_{T}\right)$ | $\begin{aligned} & 856^{* *} \\ & (427) \\ & {[.078]} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 62 \\ (126) \\ {[.32]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 221 \\ (141) \\ {[.14]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 311^{*} \\ & (165) \\ & {[.074]} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 262 \\ (163) \\ {[.14]} \end{gathered}$ |
| Nbhd effect $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 239 \\ (311) \\ {[.27]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 115 \\ (108) \\ {[.14]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -54 \\ (115) \\ {[.58]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 16 \\ (126) \\ {[.43]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 162 \\ (120) \\ {[.17]} \end{gathered}$ |
| Control mean | 3816.5 | 1127.3 | 754.1 | 739.3 | 1195.7 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ Observations | $\begin{gathered} 0.285 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.579 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.211 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.163 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.245 \\ 157 \end{gathered}$ |

## Effects on consumer goods prices

|  | Consumer goods |  |  | Prices and rates of return |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) <br> Index: uniform goods | (2) <br> Index: all goods | (3) <br> Individual goods | (4) <br> Logged own-land profits | (5) <br> Logged value per acre |
| Adjusted TE $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.055 \\ & (.13) \\ & \{.13\} \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & -.06 \\ & (.13) \\ & \{.15\} \end{aligned}$ |
| Main effect ( $\beta_{T}$ ) |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & -.061 \\ & (.11) \\ & \{.11\} \end{aligned}$ |
| Nbhd effect $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.048 \\ & (.057) \\ & \{.059\} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.0014 \\ (.019) \\ \{.023\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .0068 \\ (.0073) \\ \{.0075\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.1^{* *} \\ & (.042) \\ & \{.042\} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .0018 \\ & (.053) \\ & \{.059\} \end{aligned}$ |
| Item FE | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| Unit of observation | Village | Village | Item x Household | Household | Household |
| Control mean | 11.1 | 10.7 | -3.1 | 10.0 | 11.7 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ | . 982 | . 998 | . 951 | . 261 | . 173 |
| Observations | 58 | 58 | 17,651 | 2,487 | 3,053 |

## Estimated wage and profit effects by landholding



1. How did the initial "impulse" of an improved NREGS cause both wages and employment to increase in tandem?

- Estimate that effects via capital formation account for at most $\sim 2.4 \%$ of total
- Neglible impact on measures of human capital (nutrition, skilled labor)
- Reduction in returns to land-ownership hard to reconcile with any productivity-based story
- Evidence of employer market power: wage gains are concentrated in areas with more concentrated landholdings. Estimate that workers receive at least $75 \%$ of their marginal product

2. In what ways did these increases then affect other parts of the economy?

- Impacts on intermediated financial savings were negligible $\rightarrow$ income gains were largely spent locally

1. Results raise our posterior beliefs that EGS could be a cost-effective anti-poverty strategy relative to direct transfers

- Typical a priori concern is that wage increases without corresponding productivity gains will reduce private employment and thus attenuate impacts on poverty
- Our findings reverse these priors, underscoring (i) importance of employer market power and (ii) role of demand multipliers (as also in Egger et al, 2021)

2. Highlight political economy issues in the design of implementation of anti-poverty programs

- Employers (especially landlords) benefit from low and volatile wages (Jayachandran, 2006)
- Landowner opposition to NREGS is well-documented (Khera, 2011; Anderson et al, 2015)

3. Illustrate how the costs of corruption and weak implementation may exceed the direct costs of diverted public resources

Appendix

## Agenda

## Wage and profit estimates across imputed consumption percentiles

Panel A: Estimated wage gains


Panel B: Estimated profit reduction


Panel C: Net impact


## Earnings from wage labor per working-age adult

|  | Wage per worker | Balance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) |
| Adjusted TE $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 1946^{* * *} \\ (729) \\ \{797\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .23 \\ (.21) \\ \{.22\} \end{gathered}$ |
| Main effect ( $\beta_{T}$ ) | $\begin{gathered} 1630^{* * *} \\ (585) \\ \{612\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .13 \\ (.16) \\ \{.17\} \end{gathered}$ |
| Nbhd effect $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $\begin{gathered} 317 \\ (307) \\ \{312\} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .098 \\ (.1) \\ \{.099\} \end{gathered}$ |
| Control mean Adjusted $R^{2}$ Observations |  | $\begin{gathered} 4.1 \\ .023 \\ 4,892 \end{gathered}$ |

The unit of analysis is a household. In Column 1, working-age adults are those aged between 18 and 65. We divide the household-level wage labor income (both physical labor income and income from NREGS) by the number of working-age adults per household. Column 2 presents a balance test of the mean number of working-age adults per household across treatment and control groups.


This figure presents a simulation to show how it is possible for both wages and employment to increase in response to an improvement in the quality of NREGS jobs (and the value of NREGS as an outside option). Figure (a) illustrates labor supply curves and equilibrium employment / wage pairs $(L, w)$ under the assumption of monopsony wage-setting. Figure (b) shows the proportion of the population employed in the two sectors at equilibrium under monopsony wage setting for different values of $\theta$. In this simulation, the reservation wage for 160,000 workers for NREGS work is uniformly distributed between 50 and 150 and for the private sector work is equal to $\exp$ (Reservation wage NREGS $^{+20) / 30+\text { a random Uniform }[-20,20] \text { noise. The firm's }}$ production function is $2500 \sqrt{L}$. Back

## Relationship between key outcomes and spatial exposure



## Distribution of earnings per day by source



This figure plots the distribution of earnings per day for individuals who report positive days worked in June 2012 either on NREGS or in the private sector. NREGS earnings per day are calculated as the amount earned divided by days worked in June; private sector earnings per day are simply the daily wage the worker reported earning. Back

## Additional labor market results

|  | Wage realization (in Rs.) | Self-employment (days) | Not working (days) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Adjusted TE | $10^{* *}$ | -. 54 | $-1.9^{* * *}$ |
| $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | (5) | (.74) | (.66) |
|  | \{5.2\} | $\{.77\}$ | \{.71\} |
| Main effect | 7.9 * | -. 58 | -. 87 |
| ${ }^{(\beta}{ }_{T}$ ) | (4.1) | (.58) | (.54) |
|  | \{4.1\} | \{.61\} | \{.57\} |
| Nbhd effect | 2.5 | . 041 | -.99*** |
| $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | (3) | (.35) | (.35) |
|  | \{3.1\} | \{.33\} | \{.33\} |
| Weighted by days worked | Yes | No | No |
| Control mean | 128 | 5.8 | 12 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ | . 058 | . 023 | . 085 |
| Observations | 6969 | 13715 | 13926 |

The unit of analysis is an adult. In Column 1, we weight results by days worked.

- Back


## Time allocation by gender and primary occupation

|  |  | Self-employment | NREGS | Private sector | Not working | n |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Men | Workers |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Students | 7.0 | 4.9 | 10.1 | 8.0 | 6536 |
|  | Housework | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 21.8 | 3078 |
|  | Retired | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 25.7 | 23 |
|  |  | 8.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 25.3 | 865 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 10.8 |
|  | Workers | 4.8 | 6.3 | 0.2 | 25.5 | 2427 |
|  | Students | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 26.4 | 685 |
|  | Housework | 2.1 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 28.8 | 964 |

The unit of analysis is an adult. This table shows a cross-table of survey respondents' reported number of days spent on primary activities by gender and primary occupation. Back

|  | Treatment | Control | Difference | $p$-value | $N$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Wage realization (Rs.) | . 013 | . 011 | . 0018 | . 59 | 7370 |
| Reservation wage (Rs.) | . 4 | . 39 | . 0073 | . 64 | 21437 |
| Days worked private sector | . 33 | . 3 | . 031 | . 037 | 21437 |
| Days self-employed or not working | . 34 | . 33 | . 019 | . 13 | 21437 |
| Days worked on NREGS | . 15 | . 13 | . 027 | . 02 | 21437 |
| Days worked private sector $>0$ | . 52 | . 49 | . 028 | . 2 | 14514 |
| Wage realization $\geq$ reservation wage | . 98 | . 99 | -. 0029 | . 57 | 7287 |

Columns 1-2 report the proportion of missing answers to the respective question in treatment and control. Column 3 reports the regression-adjusted treatment difference between treatment and control from a linear regression. Column 4 reports the p-value of a test that the parameter estimated in Column 3 is zero. Column 5 reports the number of individuals from whom answers were sought. Outcomes in each row are described in Table 2.

Responses were sought from less than the full sample in the following cases: for "Wage realization (Rs.)" we asked the set of individuals who reported a strictly positive number of days worked for someone else; for "Wage realization $\geq$ Reservation wage" is the set of individuals that had non-missing values for both average daily wages and reservation wage.

## Attrition from and entry into sample frames by treatment status

|  | Treatment | Control | Regression- <br> adjusted <br> difference | $p$-value |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

These tables compare the entire NREGS sample frame-i.e., all jobcard holders-across treatment (column 1) and control (column 2) mandals. Column 3 reports the difference in treatment and control means, while column 4 reports the p-value on the treatment indicator.

Row 1 presents the proportion of NREGS jobcards and SSP beneficiaries that dropped out of the sample frame between baseline and endline. Row 2 presents the proportion that entered the sample frame between baseline and endline. Row 3 presents the net percent change in jobcards among all GPs within study mandals. Row 4 presents the same but only among GPs sampled for our household survey.

[^0]
# Comparing characteristics of surveyed households at baseline and endline 

|  | \# houschold members <br> (1) | $\frac{\begin{array}{c} \% \text { non-warking } \\ \text { age } \end{array}}{\text { (2) }}$ | $\frac{\text { \% children }}{(3)}$ | {f50a8892b-c98e-484f-ae70-6ee6523a7f4c} \% female  <br>  mombora }$(4)$ | $\frac{\% \text { Hindu }}{(\mathrm{s})}$ | $\frac{\% \text { Muslim }}{(6)}$ | $\frac{\% \text { Chrsatian }}{(\tau)}$ | $\frac{\% \mathrm{sc}}{(\mathrm{~s})}$ | $\frac{\% \mathrm{ST}}{(9)}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { K members } \\ & \text { can read } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (11) | (12) |
| Treatment | $\overbrace{(1)}^{-11}$ | $\stackrel{-.0063}{(-017)}$ | $\left(\begin{array}{r} 0.0011 \\ (.0087) \end{array}\right.$ | $-(.0012$ | $\underset{(.012)}{-.0053}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.0078 \\ (.008) \end{gathered}$ | ${\underset{(01)}{-0056})}_{(01)}$ | $(-.014$ | $\underset{(.025)}{0.067}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .012 \\ & (.02) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0025 \\ & (.013) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(.0003}{-.0037)}$ |
| EL survey | $\begin{gathered} -3.8 \\ (.09) \end{gathered}$ | ${ }_{(.04)}^{1}$ | $\begin{gathered} 28 \\ (.019) \end{gathered}$ | ${ }_{(.046)}^{1.6}$ | $\begin{gathered} 017 \\ (.0095) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(.0069)}{-.0073}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0089 \\ (.0086) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -.0035 \\ (.019) \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} .018 \\ (.012) \end{gathered}$ | $\left(\begin{array}{c} -.032 \\ (.021) \end{array}\right.$ | $\frac{-17}{(.013)}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.002 \\ (0042) \end{gathered}$ |
| EL survey X treatment | ${ }_{(1)}^{11}$ | $\begin{gathered} 068 \\ (.049) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .043 \\ (.026) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(.055)}{-.00071}$ | $\left(\begin{array}{c} (.013) \\ (.013) \end{array}\right.$ | $\begin{gathered} .0027 \\ (.0081) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 007 \\ & (.011) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0043 \\ (.022) \end{array}$ | $(-.013)$ | $(.017)$ | $\begin{gathered} -.0054 \\ (.016) \end{gathered}$ | $\left(\begin{array}{c} -0031 \\ (.0048) \end{array}\right.$ |
| BL Control Mean | 4.8 | 35 | . 098 | 51 | 9 | . 039 | . 052 | 26 | 12 | . 15 | . 61 | . 014 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ Observations | 63 9555 | ${ }^{.27} 95$ | $\begin{array}{\|} .079 \\ .0555 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 49 \\ .9565 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} .059 \\ 9555 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .015 \\ & .0555 \end{aligned}$ | $.049$ | $\begin{array}{r} .031 \\ .9532 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 12 \\ 9532 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .0038 \\ & 8104 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ 9512 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .00031 \\ & .9555 \end{aligned}$ |

The unit of analysis is an adult. The dependent variables are: the number household members, the percentage of members younger than 18 or older than 65 , the percentage of members younger than 7 , the percentage of households of the respective religion or of the respective category (columns 5 to 9 ), the percentage of households whose head is a widow and finally the percentage of household members who can read. "EL survey" is a binary variable indicating an observation from the endline survey. "EL survey X treatment" is an interaction effect of being surveyed at endine and being in treatment. "BL control mean" is the mean of the outcome within the control group at baseline. Back

## Compositional changes in sample at endline

|  | {f21bcd922-e6f4-4849-9a24-27a02d228ec1}$\# \text { houschold }$ <br>  members }$(1)$ | $\frac{\substack{\% \text { non-working } \\ \text { age }}}{(2)}$ | $\frac{\text { \% chuldren }}{(3)}$ | {ff0102385-ff05-480c-9573-143a355bb4bb}$\% \text { female }$ <br>  members }$(4)$ | $\frac{\text { \% Hindu }}{(5)}$ | $\frac{\text { \% Mualim }}{(6)}$ | $\frac{\% \text { Chriatian }}{(7)}$ | $\frac{\% \mathrm{sC}}{(\mathrm{~s})}$ | $\frac{\% \mathrm{ST}}{(9)}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { \% members } \\ & \text { can read } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (11) | (12) |
| Treatment EL entrant EL entrant $X$ treatment | $\begin{aligned} & 0.42 \\ & (.11) \\ & (16 \\ & (.15) \\ & (12) \\ & (.34) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 018 \\ (014) \\ (0144 \\ -0.044) \\ .0318 \\ 0.043) \\ (0.43) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .017^{*} \\ (.0072) \\ (.017 \\ (.034) \\ (.0034 \\ (.039) \end{gathered}$ | .012 $(.011)$ -.078 $(.029)$ $(0052$ $(.036)$ | $\begin{gathered} -.024 \\ (.018) \\ (0094 \\ (047) \\ (024) \\ (.0258) \\ (.058 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 017 \\ (.015) \\ (013 \\ (.046) \\ (011) \\ (.05) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0088 \\ (.009) \\ (.018 \\ (.01) \\ (.012 \\ (.026) \\ (.026) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .022 \\ (.022) \\ (03 \\ (0.77) \\ (.082 \\ (.088) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.013 \\ (.033) \\ -11+ \\ (034) \\ (098) \\ (.055) \end{gathered}$ | .0024 $(024$ $(.028 *$ $(0.034)$ $(015$ $(.042)$ | $\begin{gathered} -.023 \\ (.018) \\ -.031 \\ (.058) \\ 045) \\ (.068) \end{gathered}$ | -.00052 $(.00051)$ -.00047 $(.0005)$ 00053 $(.00057)$ |
| Control Mean | 4.25 | . 30 | . 07 | -50 | . 94 | 04 | . 02 | 19 | 15 | 13 | 44 | . 00 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ Observations | $\begin{aligned} & 017 \\ & 4909 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 017 \\ 4909 \end{gathered}$ | +0062 4909 | $\begin{aligned} & .0032 \\ & 4909 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 068 \\ 4909 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .018 \\ 4909 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} .067 \\ 4909 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .026 \\ & 4909 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11 \\ 4909 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .0038 \\ & 4847 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} .01 \\ 4865 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -.001 \\ 4909 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |

The unit of analysis is a household. entrant" is an indicator for a household that entered the sample for the endline survey but was not in the baseline sample frame. "EL entrant X treatment" is the interaction between the treatment indicator and the endline entrant indicator, and the coefficient of interest in these regressions. The dependent variables are: the number household members, the percentage of members younger than 18 or older than 65 , the percentage of members younger than 7 , the percentage of households of the respective religion or of the respective category (columns 5 to 9 ), the percentage of households whose head is a widow and finally the percentage of household members who can read.

## NREGS earnings per day

| Adjusted TE | -.78 | -1.1 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $(5.1)$ | $(5.1)$ |
| Main effect | $\{5.4\}$ | $\{5\}$ |
| $\left(\beta_{T}\right)$ | -2.8 | -3 |
|  | $(5.1)$ | $(5)$ |
| Nbhd effect | $\{5.5\}$ | $\{5.1\}$ |
| $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | 2 | 1.9 |
|  | $(3.5)$ | $(3.5)$ |
| Baseline lag | $\{3.6\}$ | $\{3.6\}$ |
| Control mean | Yes | No |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ | 116 | 116 |
| Observations | .03 | .03 |

The unit of analysis is an adult. The outcome variable is NREGS earnings per day of work. This was calculated by dividing reported NREGS earnings in June 2012 by reported days spent working in NREGS in the same period. Column 1 includes a baseline lag, Column 2 does not. Back

## Baseline balance in administrative data

|  | Treatment | Control | Difference | $p$-value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Panel A: Official records from GoAP in 2010 |  |  |  |  |
| \% population working | . 53 | . 52 | . 0062 | . 47 |
| \% male | . 51 | . 51 | . 00023 | . 82 |
| \% literate | . 45 | . 45 | . 0043 | . 65 |
| \% SC | . 19 | . 19 | . 0025 | . 81 |
| \% ST | . 1 | . 12 | -. 016 | . 42 |
| Jobcards per capita | . 54 | . 55 | -. 0098 | . 63 |
| Pensions per capita | . 12 | . 12 | . 0015 | . 69 |
| \% old age pensions | . 48 | .49 | -. 012 | . 11 |
| \% weaver pensions | . 0088 | . 011 | -. 0018 | . 63 |
| \% disabled pensions | . 1 | . 1 | . 0012 | . 72 |
| \% widow pensions | . 21 | . 2 | . 013 | . 039 |
| Panel B: 2011 census rural totals |  |  |  |  |
| Population | 45580 | 45758 | -221 | . 91 |
| \% population under age 6 | . 11 | . 11 | -. 00075 | . 65 |
| \% agricultural laborers | . 23 | . 23 | -. 0049 | . 59 |
| \% female agricultural laborers | . 12 | . 12 | -. 0032 | . 52 |
| \% marginal agricultural laborers | . 071 | . 063 | . 0081 | . 14 |
| Panel C: 2011 census village directory |  |  |  |  |
| \# primary schools per village | 3.2 | 3.6 | -. 4 | . 23 |
| \% village with medical facility | . 52 | . 49 | . 028 | . 53 |
| \% villages with tap water | . 87 | . 84 | . 033 | . 25 |
| \% villages with banking facility | . 12 | . 15 | -. 036 | . 025 |
| \% villages with paved road access | . 95 | . 94 | . 0086 | . 49 |
| Avg. village size in acres | 1374 | 1505 | -131 | . 36 |

## Baseline balance in survey data

|  | Treatment | Control | Difference | $p$-value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Household members | 4.8 | 4.8 | . 022 | . 89 |
| BPL | . 98 | . 98 | . 0042 | . 73 |
| Scheduled caste | . 22 | . 25 | -. 027 | . 35 |
| Scheduled tribe | . 12 | . 11 | . 0071 | . 81 |
| Literacy | . 42 | . 42 | . 0015 | . 93 |
| Annual income | 41,482 | 42,791 | -1,290 | . 52 |
| Total annual expenditure | 687,128 | 657,228 | 26,116 | . 37 |
| Short-term Expenditure | 52,946 | 51,086 | 1,574 | . 45 |
| Longer-term Expenditure | 51,947 | 44,390 | 7,162 | .45 |
| Pay to work/enroll | . 011 | . 0095 | . 00099 | . 82 |
| Pay to collect | . 058 | . 036 | . 023 | . 13 |
| Ghost household | . 012 | . 0096 | . 0019 | . 75 |
| Time to collect | 156 | 169 | -7.5 | . 62 |
| Owns land | . 65 | . 6 | . 058 | . 06 |
| Total savings | 5,863 | 5,620 | 3.7 | 1.00 |
| Accessible (in 48 h ) savings | 800 | 898 | -105 | . 68 |
| Total loans | 62,065 | 57,878 | 5,176 | . 32 |
| Owns business | . 21 | . 16 | . 048 | . 02 |
| Number of vehicles | . 11 | . 12 | -. 014 | . 49 |
| Average payment delay | 28 | 23 | . 036 | . 99 |
| Payment delay deviation | 11 | 8.8 | -. 52 | . 72 |
| Official amount | 172 | 162 | 15 | . 45 |
| Survey amount | 177 | 189 | -10 | . 65 |
| Leakage | -5.1 | -27 | 25 | . 15 |
| NREGS availability | . 47 | . 56 | -. 1 | . 02 |
| Household doing NREGS work | . 43 | . 42 | . 0067 | . 85 |
| NREGS days worked, June | 8.3 | 8 | . 33 | . 65 |
| Private sector days worked, June | 4.8 | 5.3 | -. 49 | . 15 |
| Days unpaid/idle, June | 22 | 22 | . 29 | . 47 |
| Average daily wage private sector, June | 96 | 98 | -3.7 | . 34 |
| Daily reservation wage, June | 70 | 76 | -6.8 | . 03 |
| NREGS hourly wage, June | 13 | 14 | -1.3 | . 13 |
| NREGS overreporting | . 15 | . 17 | -. 015 | . 55 |
| Additional days household wanted NREGS work | 15 | 16 | -. 8 | . 67 |

## Wages, if treatment only changed composition

|  | Age | Female | Non-general Class | Non-Hindu | $\begin{gathered} \text { Agricultural } \\ \text { labor } \end{gathered}$ | Salaried | Self-employed | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Household } \\ & \text { is BPL } \end{aligned}$ | Household is widow-led | Household has a literate member | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) | (10) | (11) |
| TE on composition | $\begin{aligned} & \hline .29 \\ & (.66) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline . .0049 \\ & (.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline .0013 \\ & \hline(.022) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline .019 \\ & (.02) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline .036 \\ & (.026) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & . .0015 \\ & (.0094) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline .015 \\ & (.019) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .0088 \\ & (.023) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline-.013 \\ & (.019) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline .017 \\ & (.024) \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Control correlation with wage | $\begin{aligned} & .087 \\ & (.13) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -55^{* * *} \\ (4.2) \end{gathered}$ | $\stackrel{9}{(9.1)}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4.8 \\ & (12) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -15^{*} \\ & (7.9) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 20^{* *} \\ & (9.2) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -9.7 \\ & (8.4) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -14 \\ & (11) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -13^{* *} \\ (5.2) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -1.7 \\ (5) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Compositional effect on wage | $\begin{aligned} & -.025 \\ & (.069) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} .27 \\ (.82) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.012 \\ (.2) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .093 \\ & (.25) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -54 \\ (.49) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.029 \\ & (.18) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} .14 \\ (.22) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.13 \\ & (.34) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} .17 \\ (.26) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .029 \\ (.095) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.1 \\ (1.1) \end{gathered}$ |
| Control correlation with res wage | $\begin{aligned} & . .019 \\ & (.067) \end{aligned}$ | $-35^{* * *}$ <br> (3) | $\begin{gathered} 3.2 \\ (5.6) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .57 \\ & (13) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.98 \\ (3) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(7.2)}{22^{* * *}}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.1 \\ (3.2) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -5.6 \\ & (4.5) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.87 \\ (2.3) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.2 \\ (2.6) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Compositional effect on res wage | $\begin{array}{r} .0054 \\ (.023) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} .17 \\ (.51) \end{gathered}$ | $\stackrel{.0042}{(.07)}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .011 \\ & (.25) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} .035 \\ (.11) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.033 \\ & (.21) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} . .074 \\ (.11) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.049 \\ & (.13) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} .011 \\ (.035) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.02 \\ (.052) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} .052 \\ (.65) \end{gathered}$ |
| Unit of analysis | Adult | Adult | Adult | Adult | Adult | Adult | Adult | Household | Household | Houschold |  |

This table examines to what extent the treatment effects on wages and reservation wages that we estimate in Table 2 could be attributable to changes in composition as a result of treatment.

## Total days reported

|  | $(1)$ | $(2)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Adjusted TE | $-.32^{*}$ | $-.34^{*}$ |
| $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $(.19)$ | $(.19)$ |
| Main effect | $\{.22\}$ | $\{.22\}$ |
| $\left(\beta_{T}\right)$ | -.29 | -.3 |
|  | $(.18)$ | $(.18)$ |
| Nbhd effect | $\{.2\}$ | $\{.2\}$ |
| $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | -.033 | -.035 |
|  | $(.079)$ | $(.082)$ |
| Baseline lag | $\{.08\}$ | $\{.084\}$ |
| Control mean | Yes | No |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ | 30.1 | 30.1 |
| Observations | .017 | .015 |

The unit of analysis is an adult. The outcome variable is the total days reported doing various activities. This was not required to add up to 30 days. Column 1 includes a baseline lag, Column 2 does not.

## Differential effects by recall length

|  | Employment |  |  | Wages |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) <br> Days self-employed or not working | (2) Days worked in NREGS | (3) <br> Days worked in private sector | (4) <br> NREGS earnings in June |
| Treatment | $\begin{aligned} & -1.1 \\ & (1.4) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .47 \\ & (.7) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.11 \\ (1.2) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 134 \\ (121) \end{gathered}$ |
| Survey Week | $\begin{aligned} & .061 \\ & (.24) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.16 \\ & (.11) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -.012 \\ & (.21) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11 \\ (20) \end{gathered}$ |
| Treatment $\times$ Survey Week | $\begin{aligned} & -.041 \\ & (.28) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .025 \\ & (.13) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} .14 \\ (.25) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -5.4 \\ & (23) \end{aligned}$ |
| Control mean | 17 | 3.5 | 7.9 | 704 |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ | . 067 | . 04 | . 018 | . 1 |
| Observations | 13713 | 13713 | 13713 | 13713 |

The unit of analysis is an adult. The outcomes are wage and employment outcomes. Survey week is coded as 0 for the first week and +1 for each week after that, i.e 1 for the second, 3 for the fourth etc.

## Days of NREGS work provided

|  | $(1)$ | $(2)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Adjusted TE |  | $(873$ |
| $\left(\beta_{T}+0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | $(772)$ | 1071 |
|  | $\{788\}$ | $\{935\}$ |
| Main effect | 637 | 546 |
| $\left(\beta_{T}\right)$ | $(641)$ | $(753)$ |
|  | $\{606\}$ | $\{732\}$ |
| Nbhd effect |  | 525 |
| $\left(0.36 * \beta_{N}\right)$ | 276 | $(361)$ |
|  | $\{356)$ | $\{389\}$ |
| Baseline lag | $\{365\}$ | Nos |
| Control mean | $6,605.2$ | $6,605.2$ |
| Adjusted $R^{2}$ | .324 | .113 |
| Observations | 856 | 861 |

The unit of analysis is a village. Data comes from official NREGS administrative records on the number of days of NREGS work provided for each NREGS project.


[^0]:    -Back

