

Shahidul Islam

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Education

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
PhD in Economics
Master of Science

August 2020 - current
May 2023

University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Master of Social Science in Economics
Bachelor of Social Science in Economics

December 2015
December 2014

Research Interest

Labor Economics; Public Economics, Development and Experimental Economics; Economics of Education

Working Papers

”Alone” College Students’ Academic Outcomes

Abstract: This paper examines the experiences of college students who are the sole representatives of their race, ethnicity, or nationality in a classroom setting, a situation referred to as being ”alone.” Specifically, I explore whether being the only student of a particular background in a course section impacts the academic outcomes of undergraduate students. To answer this, I exploit the random course and section assignment based on freshman students’ course preferences at a large public college in the USA. I use actual course assignment data to define an instrument for the treatment of being *alone*. Conditional student’s course preferences, the instrument (i.e., being assigned *alone*) is as good as random. The findings show that being the only student in a class by race or ethnicity impacts students’ course grades positively. Being alone increases the course grades by 0.11 for domestic students and 0.12 for international students. The empirical mechanism reveals that the positive *alone* effects are driven by low-ability students’ exposure to similarly low-ability peers, as *lone* students are shielded from certain negative racial peer influences that non-*lone* students cannot avoid. While loneliness is not the driving mechanism behind course-level positive treatment effects, chronic loneliness may explain why isolated international students have negative *lone* effects for term-level performance, graduation rates, and major choice outcomes.

Physicians Supply, and Access to Healthcare and Health Outcomes (with *Redwan Baten* and *Azharul Islam*)

Abstract: This study evaluates the impact of a 2014 policy that increased physician supply in rural Bangladesh, using Household Income and Expenditure Survey data from 2005-2016. A Difference-in-Differences model was applied to assess healthcare access and outcomes for rural residents compared to urban counterparts. Results show a 14 percentage point increase in rural visits to government doctors and a 15-point decline in private doctor visits. Reliance on informal care sources, such as pharmacy salesmen and traditional healers, decreased, while access to public medication improved. Overall healthcare costs for rural residents decreased, despite higher transportation and medicine costs due to increased utilization. Chronic conditions like heart disease and arthritis were more frequently reported, and travel time to healthcare providers was reduced. The intervention successfully enhanced healthcare access and utilization for rural residents.

Work in Progress

College Students’ Performance in (potentially) Stereotypical Environment *Abstract:* Experimental, education, and behavioral psychology literature papers that minorities and women underperform in math classes when their within-group representation is reduced. From real university classes, I find environments where women and minority students would feel potentially negatively stereotyped exploiting the class compositions. Using that, I find both women and minority students perform worse in STEM courses when their representation is low in a

”stereotype-friendly” environment.

- ”What Drives Grade Inflation?” (with *Kevin Mumford*)
- ”Imported Stereotypes, Classroom Peer Effects, and Domestic Students’ Outcomes”
- ”Effect of Feminizing of Primary Education Recruitment on Student Outcomes”

Conference presentations

2024 - Society of Labor Economists, Midwest Economic Association, Western Economic Association, Krannert Doctoral Symposium
2023 - Southern Economic Association

Peer-reviewed publications (pre-PhD)

- Khatoon, Rabeya, et al. “Aggregation, asymmetry, and common factors for Bangladesh’s exchange rate–trade balance relation.” *Empirical Economics*, 2021.
- Islam, S., and Hasan, E. “Is the Public Sector Wage Premium Real? Findings from Bangladesh.” *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 2020.
- Islam, S. “Age and Education Effects in the First Demographic Dividend of Bangladesh.” *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 2019.

Teaching Experience

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
Teaching Assistant, ECON 606 Microeconomic Theory I *Fall 2021*
Teaching Assistant, ECON 562 Econometrics I *Fall 2022*
Teaching Assistant, ECON 456 Urban Economics *Fall 2022 & Spring 2023*
Teaching Assistant, ECON 251 Microeconomics *Fall 2020*
Teaching Assistant, ECON 252 Macroeconomics *Fall 2020*
Stamford University Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Instructor, Development Economics *Fall 2016*
Instructor, Econometrics I *Spring 2017*

Awards

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
James A. Papke Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Public Sector Economics *Fall 2020*
Summer Research Grant *Summer 2021*

Grants

USD 5,500 (*PI*), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Research Endowment Fund

Computer Skills

Languages: Matlab, Python, L^AT_EX
Statistical Software: Stata, R

References

Timothy Bond Associate Professor, Purdue University, Indiana, USA Email: tnbond@purdue.edu	Kevin Mumford (Advisor) Professor, Purdue University, Indiana, USA Email: kjmumfor@purdue.edu	Victoria Prowse Professor, Purdue University, Indiana, USA Email: vprowse@purdue.edu
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