

Having faith in girls – the educational gender gap among Christians, Hindus, and Muslims in 71 low- and middle-income countries and Indian states.

Björn Halleröd ¹, Hans Ekbrand ¹ Shailen Nandy ²

¹Department of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

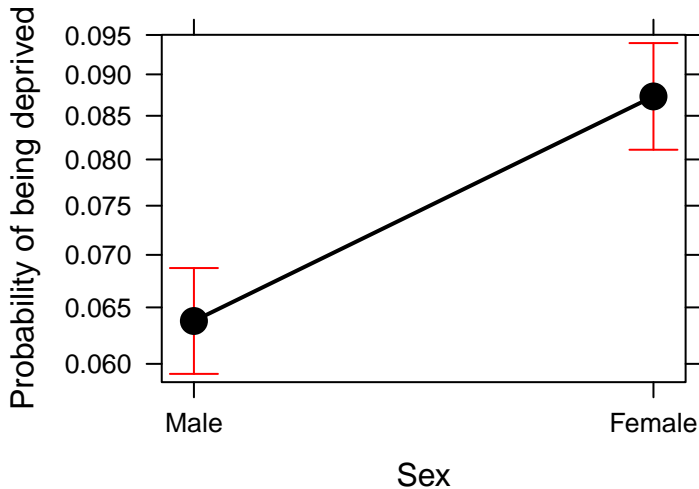
²School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, UK

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The problem: The gender gap in access to formal education



Research question

Can the religious affiliation of the parents explain some part of this gender gap?

Theory

- ▶ Gender equality is a phenomenon associated with late modernity. At least historically, religion has in many ways been antithetical to ideas about gender equality.
- ▶ Religions, at least the three big religions, don't have a good track record.
- ▶ Previous research have suggested that Muslim women are particularly discriminated against and that Muslim parents invest less in the education of their daughters (Borooah & Iyer 2005) and the gender gap in school enrollment is higher in countries dominated by islam (Cooray & Potrafke 2011)

Our contribution

- ▶ Previous research is either based on analyses made on the country level, not on the household level (Cooray & Potrafke 2011)
- ▶ or, it is done using a single country (Hajj and Panizza 2009).
- ▶ we have conducted what we believe is the first systematic study of the relationship between religion and gender differences in educational chances, using harmonized household survey microdata.

Design

- ▶ We focus on comparing the level of discrimination against girls in households within the same country that vary in religious affiliation.
- ▶ This design is good for analysing countries with more than one religion, however monoreligious countries pose a problem that need another, more complex analytical strategy (on-going work).
- ▶ Another limitation of the current study is that we don't have a good sample of non-religious households, so no comparisons with non-religious households will be done.

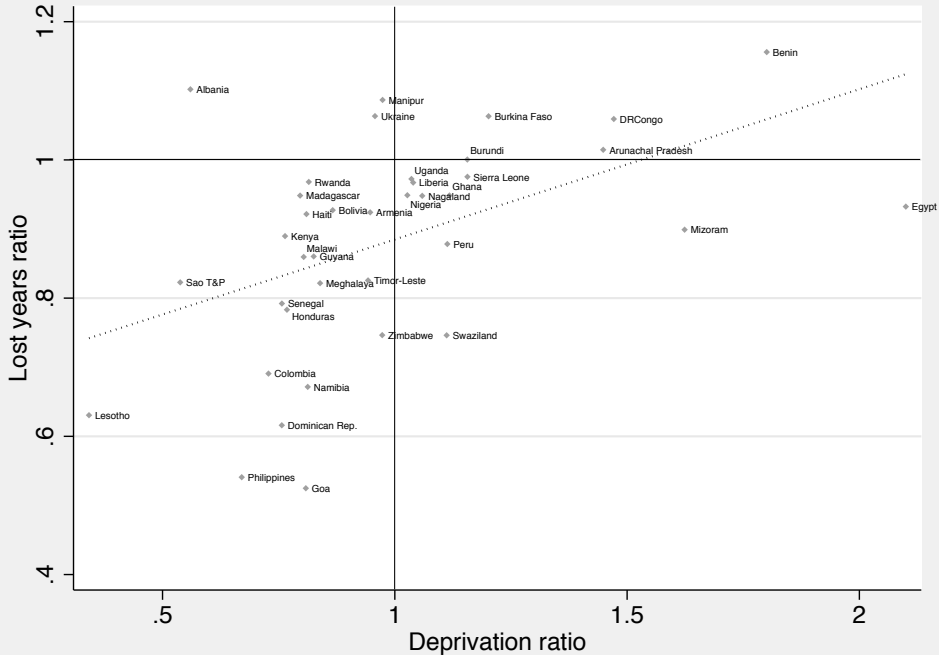
Data and measurements

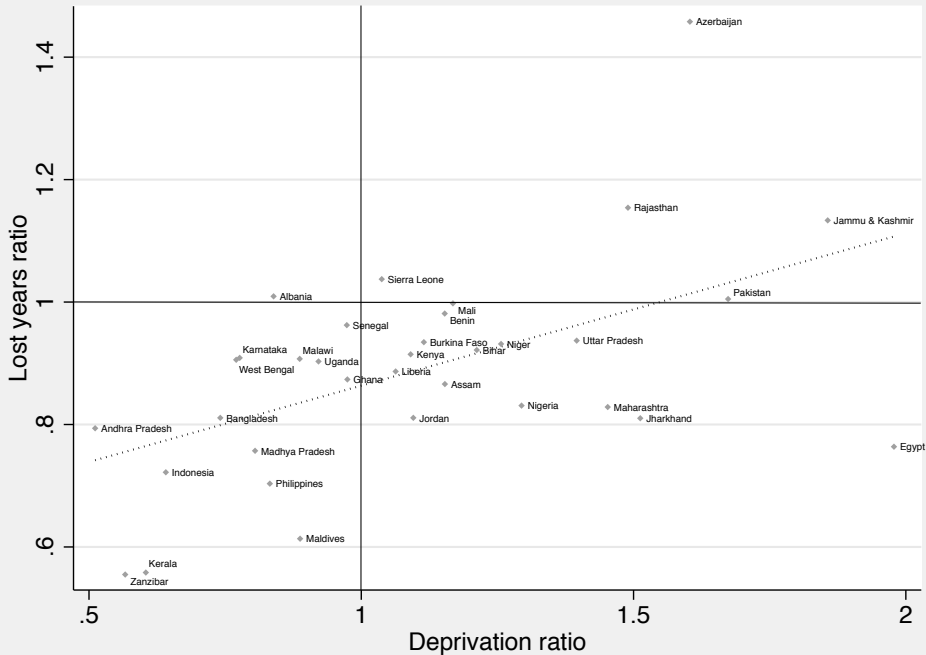
- ▶ DHS data from 71 countries and Indian states mostly from 2006-2012.
- ▶ Primary outcome variable: the ratio between the probability of severe educational deprivation = never attended formal education for girls vs boys. A number above 1 means that girls are more at risk for deprivation.
- ▶ Secondary outcome variable: the ratio between the mean number of years *not* in school since the child turned 7 years old for boys and girls. A number above 1 mean that girls on average have a lower number of years in school than boys in that country.
- ▶ Primary independent variable: religious affiliation of the household.
- ▶ For some countries we also do a regression analysis with the following control variables: wealth score (quintile), education of the head of the household, urban/rural including interactions with sex.

Countries	N	Deprived	Lost years	Religions	Indian States	N	Deprived	Lost years	Religions
Albania	6,640	2.01	0.20	C M	Andhra Pradesh	5,745	6.80	0.36	H M
Armenia	3,294	0.27	0.04	C	Arunachal Pradesh	1,261	23.86	1.36	C H
Azerbaijan	6,418	2.50	0.10	M	Assam	3,584	7.04	0.67	H M
Bangladesh	12,140	7.18	1.23	H M	Bihar	4,229	31.26	0.90	H M
Benin	16,056	26.86	0.86	C M	Chhattisgarh	3,674	9.53	0.76	H
Bolivia	21,260	2.41	0.33	C	Delhi	3,020	7.95	0.57	H
Burkina Faso	19,160	40.54	1.11	C M	Gujarat	3,219	6.75	0.48	H
Burundi	10,653	11.50	1.97	C	Goa	2,111	2.32	0.23	C H
Colombia	45,570	5.28	1.47	C	Himachal Pradesh	2,589	1.24	0.21	H
Congo DRe	12,000	16.55	0.64	C	Haryana	2,895	8.98	0.45	H
Dominican Republic	31,464	3.20	1.76	C	Jharkhand	3,009	18.96	0.80	H M
Egypt	19,905	4.36	0.90	C M	Jammu and Kashmir	3,160	8.80	0.39	H M
Ghana	4,692	15.07	0.36	C M	Karnataka	5,320	8.05	0.28	H M
Guyana	5,310	1.92	1.05	C H	Kerala	2,387	0.59	0.08	H M
Haiti	11,163	21.18	0.23	C	Meghalaya	2,171	19.12	1.21	C
Honduras	27,996	6.86	2.28	C	Maharashtra	7,164	3.67	0.38	H M
Indonesia	10,380	1.18	0.40	M	Manipur	3,422	10.47	0.76	C H
Jordan	18,798	0.62	0.08	M	Madhya Pradesh	6,050	12.10	0.60	H M
Kenya	9,185	13.18	0.97	C M	Mizoram	1,595	3.51	0.61	C
Lesotho	7,932	2.71	1.23	C	Nagaland	4,430	16.70	0.95	C
Liberia	8,162	49.50	3.10	C M	Orissa	3,796	11.04	0.56	H
Madagascar	15,626	6.58	1.60	C	Punjab	1,431	9.92	0.59	H
Malawi	30,451	5.11	1.43	C M	Rajasthan	4,373	16.10	0.75	H M
Maldives	10,217	3.52	0.25	M	Sikkim	1,375	12.58	1.26	H
Mali	21,424	52.61	1.35	M	Tamil Nadu	4,088	1.20	0.21	H
Namibia	9,742	8.76	0.86	C	Tripura	1,487	5.85	0.99	H
Nepal	10,224	8.87	1.23	H	Uttaranchal	2,953	5.12	0.45	H
Niger	13,211	52.67	1.17	M	Uttar Pradesh	15,512	15.82	0.75	H M
Nigeria	37,022	29.41	0.80	C M	West Bengal	5,346	11.15	1.00	H M
Pakistan	205,000	26.05	1.17	M					
Peru	23,435	2.37	0.36	C	Total	900,959	16.37	0.94	
Philippines	13,507	9.33	0.61	C M					
Rwanda	14,237	6.31	2.06	C					
Sao Tome and Principe	2,597	1.70	0.94	C					
Senegal	19,953	34.88	1.21	C M					
Sierra Leone	10,183	24.89	1.19	C M					
Swaziland	2,333	2.36	0.83	C					
Tanzania (Zanzibar)	1,115	7.98	1.10	M					
Timor-Leste	18,339	12.88	1.02	C					
Uganda	11,966	10.18	1.77	C M					
Ukraine	3,016	0.67	0.02	C					
Zimbabwe	7,787	4.63	0.56	C					

Results

- ▶ Part 1: Each religion separately: 1. Christianity, 2. Islam, 3. Hinduism
- ▶ Part 2: Christianity vs Islam, Islam vs Hinduism, Hinduism vs Christianity





Lost years ratio

1.4

1.2

1.0

0.8

0.6

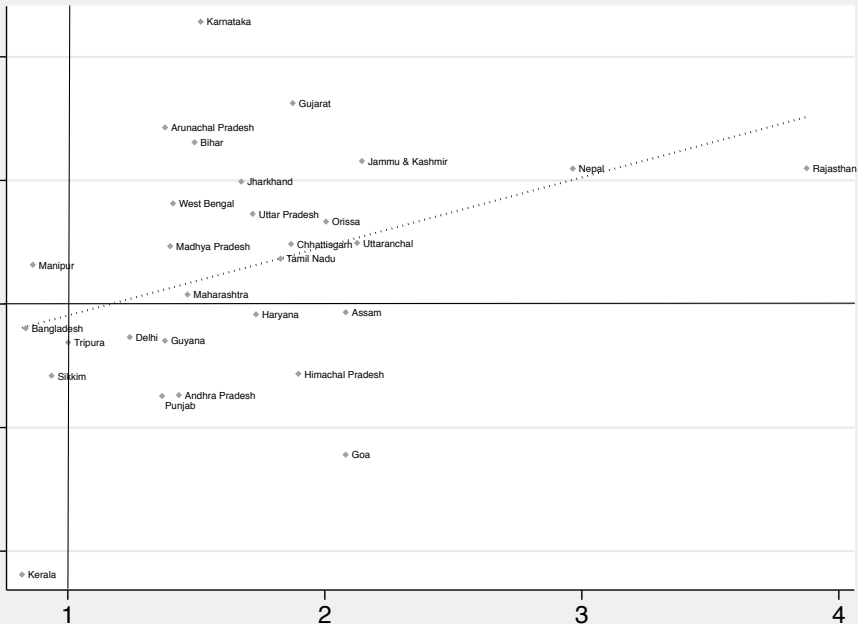
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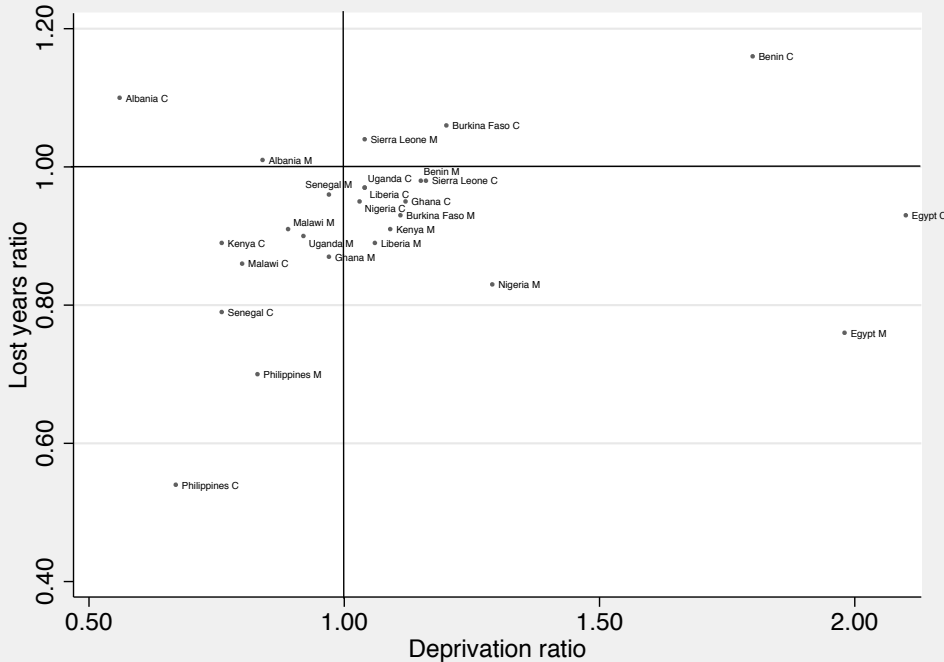
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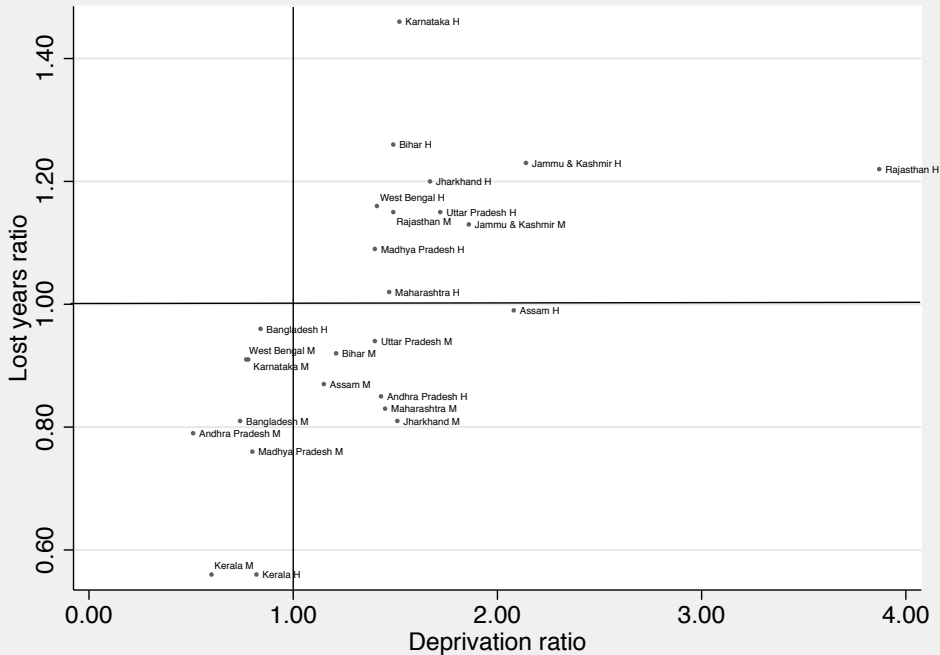
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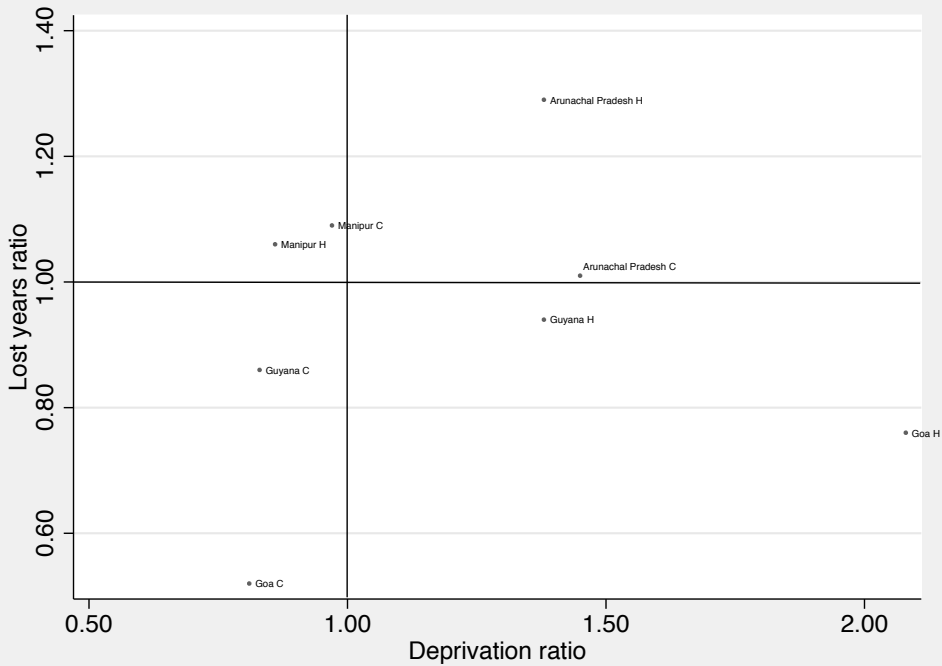
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Deprivation ratio









Conclusions

- ▶ There is no uniform pattern of gender prejudice or preference among Muslims or Christians in our sample.
- ▶ Hindu girls are more likely to be deprived of education than Hindu boys.
- ▶ In polyreligious areas, the gender gap is consistently larger in the hindu households than in the muslim or christian households.