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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected Spring 2009

M.A. Economics, Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi, India, 2001

B.A. Economics, Delhi University, New Delhi, India, 1999

DISSERTATION

Part I. "Trends in Manufacturing Sector Productivity at the Aggregate (All-India) and State Level (1970-2003)"

Part II. "Estimating the Effect of Physical Infrastructure on Manufacturing Productivity, Including the Presence of Spatial Spillovers"

Committee: Prof. Charles Hulten (Chair), Prof. Harry Kelejian, Prof. Wallace Oates (Advisors)

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Political Economy, Institutions

Secondary: Macroeconomics

RESEARCH PAPERS

"Trends in Manufacturing Sector Productivity at the Aggregate (All-India) and State Level (1970-2003)" *Job-Market Paper*

"Estimating the Effect of Physical Infrastructure on Manufacturing Productivity, Including the Presence of Spatial Spillovers" *Work in Progress*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Economic Statistics, University of Maryland, Fall 2009

Instructor, Law and Economics, University of Maryland, Summer 2006 - 2007 - 2008

Teaching Assistant, Introductory Macroeconomics, University of Maryland, Fall 2003 - Spring 2004

Teaching Assistant, Introductory Microeconomics, University of Maryland, Fall 2004 - 2008

RESEARCH/WORK EXPERIENCE

Project Officer, IMF, Washington D.C., Jun-Aug 2007

Created and updated a large data set on the history of financial sector liberalization for more than 90 countries as part of IMF research on determinants and consequences of reform across countries.

Summer Intern, IMF, Washington D.C., Jun-Aug 2005

Created a panel data set of 8 developing countries assigning qualitative scores to various government agencies based on their institutional characteristics, chiefly regarding openness and accountability.

Analyst/Correspondent, Economic Times Intelligence Group, New Delhi, India, Jun 2001-Jun 2003

Primary responsibilities included writing on macroeconomic trends for column titled "Economy Watch," on rural development and agriculture for "Rural Mural," and on infrastructure. In addition, contributed to policy-interest books produced by the newspaper, namely "The Future of Indian Manufacturing," and "Rural Economy."

AWARDS

Graduate Assistantship, University of Maryland, Fall 2003-present

REFERENCES

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THESIS ABSTRACT

Part I. "Trends in Manufacturing Sector Productivity at the Aggregate (All-India) and State Level (1970-2003)" (Job market paper)

This paper addresses the debate on trends in productivity growth in India. This debate centers on the timing of productivity growth changes and economic reforms; some authors find that reform episodes coincided with acceleration in total factor productivity (TFP) growth, others argue that TFP growth may have decelerated over the same period.

First, using value of output data, and Divisia deflation techniques using extensive Input-Output information of the Indian economy, I find that this measure of productivity – total productivity – shows acceleration in each of the reform episodes (the 1980s and the 1990s), though the overall growth rate is small. Also, these results are robust to small changes in periodizing reform episodes.

Secondly, I show that productivity growth estimates using value added tend to be sensitive to deflation methodology, and to the precise length of time considered to be a "reform period," making it difficult to form qualitative judgments about the impact of reforms using total factor productivity.

Finally, I estimate state-level 'total productivity' growth and productivity *levels* (using the Divisia-Translog procedure), and find that all states have higher but divergent productivity levels in 2003 than in 1970, while growth rates have tended to converge in the 1990s, suggesting that this sector may not have played a key role in balanced regional growth in the last decade.

Part II. "Estimating the Effect of Physical Infrastructure on Manufacturing Productivity, Including the Presence of Spatial Spillovers"

This part attempts to estimate the elasticity of state-wise productivity levels to changes in the stock of infrastructure. Cross-sectional evidence seems to suggest a significant effect of both roads and electricity, and panel estimates incorporating state fixed effects also indicate a small positive effect for both national and state highways, including when infrastructure endowments of contiguous states are taken into consideration. In addition, the evidence suggests that states with better healthcare have higher productivity levels. A fuller accounting of the potential spatial effects (following the procedure developed by Kelejian and Prucha (1998, 1999)) is work in progress.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Nationality: Indian (F-1 VISA)

Gender: Male

Languages: English (Native Fluency), Hindi (Native Fluency), Urdu (Basic Competence), Tamil (Basic Competence)