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in

Jindal School of Banking and Finance (JSBF)

cordially invites you to a

Public Lecture

on

Public Safety for Women: Is Regulation of Social Drinking Spaces Effective?

by



Dr. Kanika Mahajan

Assistant Professor, Economics Department, Ashoka University

Dr. Kanika Mahajan is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Ashoka University, Sonapat, India. She obtained her PhD. in economics from Indian Statistical Institute Delhi. Before that she has a Masters in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University and a Bachelor's degree from St. Stephen's College. Her primary research interests include empirical development economics in the field of gender, labor, agriculture and environment. Currently, she is working on issues around stagnation of women's labor supply in urban India, decline in female employment in rural areas - exploring the structural linkages between female employment and agriculture technology and differences in agriculture productivity across male and female farm managers in India, violence against women and women's political representation. She has also taught at the School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Abstract

This paper examines the effect of public policies that regulate drinking in social spaces on sexual crimes against women outside their homes. Specifically, we consider the impact of regulations that reduce availability of hard liquor in bars on reported incidence of sexual assaults and rapes. We construct a district level panel dataset on reported crimes and use an identification strategy that exploits the variation arising from a complete crackdown on bars selling hard liquor in Kerala, a state of India. Using a difference-in-difference strategy, we show that placing restrictions on alcohol sale through closure of on-premise drinking outlets that serve hard liquor reduces reported incidence of sexual assault and harassment against women by 25% but has no effect on reported rapes. We conduct placebo tests and show that the result is not driven by existing pre-trends. The result is also robust to an alternative estimation strategy using a synthetic control construction.

Monday, 23 September 2019 | Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Venue: T1, Big Bang Conference Room, Room No. F14, Academic Building

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