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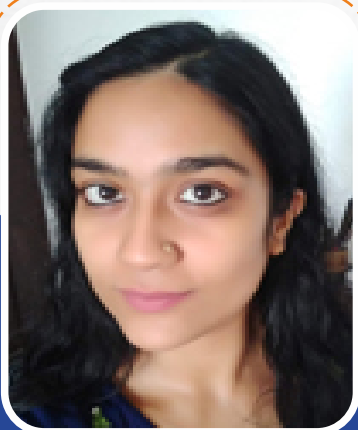
**Jindal School of Government
and Public Policy**
India's First Public Policy School

JINDAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY (JSGP)

invites you to a

VIRTUAL  **FACULTY SEMINAR**

**WHAT CAN(NOT) EXPLAIN THE GAP?
EVIDENCE AND DECOMPOSITION
OF GENDERED STREAM CHOICE IN INDIA**



SPEAKER

KOMAL SAHAI

Assistant Professor
Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

ABSTRACT:

Gendered pattern in stream choices is well established in the education literature. Males are overrepresented in the mathematically oriented courses while females are more likely to opt for life sciences and non-science courses. We use three cohorts of student results data from the Central Board of Secondary Education, the single largest education board with an all-India presence, to first quantify and subsequently decompose the gender gap in the very first stream choices made by students at the school level in India. We use our rich dataset to explore a large set of explanatory factors proposed in the literature to explain the gender gap, namely, student ability, attributes of cohort peers, "chilly" climate, and socioeconomic characteristics of students. We employ a novel way to use a student's immediate seniors in schools to elicit the "chilly" climate aspects of stream choice. Our measure of the expected "chilliness" of the climate in a prospective course accounts for the largest portion of the observed gender gap in male dominated streams. It can explain over 13% of the gender gap in Mathematics while the ability related variables account for only 6% of the gap. In case of Biology, on the other hand, "chilly" climate closes the gender gap by only 5% while the ability related variables account for over 10% of the gap.

WED | **10 NOV** | **2021**
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

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