Can Effective Policy Implementation Alter Political Selection? Evidence From Female Legislators in India

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► The paper attempts to answer a very interesting question of whether exposure to well-executed policies leads voters to prioritize politicians' competence over their gender

► India provides an interesting context to study due to its history and society

► The paper focuses on the District Primary Education Program (DPEP), a national primary school expansion program since 1993

► The authors develop a probabilistic voting model following Dal Bo and Finan (2018)

By employing a fuzzy regression discontinuity design, the authors show that their empirical evidence is aligned with the predictions of the theoretical model

- ▶ Women are more likely to be elected in treated districts relative to untreated districts, associated with the decline in number of male candidates and independent candidates
- ▶ Positive effect on candidate educational attainment (secondary education)
- ▶ Women's likelihood of being elected is stronger in districts where women were elected in previous elections, and in districts where the program was most effectively implemented

► The fuzzy regression discontinuity Design provides the local average treatment effect (LATE) for districts near the cutoff
⟹ External Validity of the Result?

► Robustness Checks with different approaches of clustering standard error: Abadie et al. (2023)

- ▶ Testing Stability of Regression Discontinuity Models: Cerulli et al. (2017)
- ▶ Other compliance groups at the threshold: Bertanha & Imbens (2020)

Thank You