

## Research Finding Seminar

# *“Essays on Development Economics: A Case Study of India”* (in English)

**Presenter:** Ms. NNETU-OKOLIEUWA, Vivian Ikwuoma  
(PhD Student)

**Date:** 11 April 2019 (Thursday)

**Time:** 11:00 am – 11:45 am

**Venue:** WYL314, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building

**Chief Supervisor:** Prof. WEI Xiangdong (Professor)

**Co-supervisor:** Prof. Alex WONG (Assistant Professor)

### Abstract:

This thesis studies three essays on development economics in India using the Young Lives Survey Data which a longitudinal study of 3000 children in India. The first essay analysis the impacts of parental health shocks on nutrition and cognitive development of children in India. The results from the study shows that illness to either mother or father or illness to both parents has negative impacts on the human capital development of children in India. In this study, we also look at the mechanism through which parental health shocks affect the human capital development of children. The study notes that the effect can be direct or indirect. In the indirect effect, we look at how parental health shocks affect the allocation of a child's time to various activities. Our results shows that illness to the parents increases the time the child spends on doing household chores and domestic tasks and reduces the time the child spends studying at home and the hours the child spends in school. This affects the cognitive development of the child and also the nutrition of the child is affected due to a reduction in the household income.

The second essay studies the impact of natural disasters on the human capital development of children in India. In this part of the essay, we look at how household resilience affects the impact of these shocks. Basically, we answer three questions – what are the determinants of a household's resilience? Do children from a resilient household who experience shocks as a result of natural disasters have better outcomes than children from a less resilient household? Our results from a cross-sectional regression shows that children from a resilient household who experience shocks have better nutrition than children from a less resilient household.

Finally, the third essay looks at non-parental care and the human capital development of children in India. The results show that non-parental care has an impact on the health and cognitive development of children in India.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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