

# Fatima Aqeel

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2020 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Essays in Development Economics*

Dissertation Committee: Samuel Bazzi, Dilip Mookherjee, and Daniele Paserman

B.A., Economics, Brown University (*with honors*), Providence, RI, 2012

## FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics, Labor Economics

## WORKING PAPERS

“[Education and Marriage Market Success: Evidence from Pakistan](#),” September 2019. [Job Market Paper].

“Taking Primary Health Care to Rural Homes: The Role of Community Health Workers,” November 2018. [Available on request].

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Feminization of Medicine and its Consequences for Health Care Provision”

“Can Male Dominated Industries Bring Jobs for Women: Evidence from Indonesia”

## PRESENTATIONS

NEUDC, Evanston IL, October 2019 (scheduled)

Human Capital Initiative, Boston University, Boston MA, November 2019 (scheduled)

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Rosenstein-Rodan Prize for Best Paper in Development Economics, 2019, Boston

Human Capital Initiative Research Fellow, Global Development Policy Center, 2018, Boston

Boston University Summer Fellowship, 2014-2019, Boston

Boston University Graduate Student Fellowship, 2014-2019, Boston

Pakistani Student Scholarship, 2008-2012, Brown University, Providence

Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Assistant Award, 2011, Brown University, Providence

Omicron Epsilon Delta honor society in economics, 2012, Providence

Chase Manhattan Fund for Sponsored Research Assistantship, 2010-2012, Brown University, Providence

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Patricia Cortes, Questrom Business School, 2019, Boston

Research Assistant to Martin Fiszbein, Department of Economics, 2019, Boston

Research Assistant to Mahesh Karra, 2018, Global Development Policy Center, Boston University

Research Assistant to Chris Udry, Daniel Keniston, David Atkin, Yale University  
Innovations for Poverty Action, 2012-2014, New Haven  
Research Assistant to David Atkin, Eric Verhoogen, Amit Khandewal, Azam  
Chaudhry Lahore School of Economics, 2013-2014, Karachi, Pakistan  
Research Assistant to David N. Weil, Ph.D., Brown University Dept. of Economics,  
2010-2012, Providence

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Microeconomics, Boston University, 2015-2018, Boston

**COMPUTER SKILLS:** STATA, ArcGIS, PYTHON, R LaTeX

**CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS:** Pakistan/F1

#### **REFERENCES**

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## **Educational Investment and Marriage Success: Evidence from Pakistan**

(Job Market Paper)

I study how removing institutional barriers for women in higher education affects their marriage and labor outcomes. In 1992 Pakistan equalized admissions criteria for women and men applying to medical schools. I show first that the policy change induced a rapid increase in the female proportion of medical graduates and registering doctors. Second, I use variation across birth cohorts to determine the causal effects of the policy on medical graduate labor and marriage outcomes. Equalizing admissions criteria led to women delaying marriage in their 20s and increasing labor force participation in their late 20s and 30s. When they married, they matched with higher earning spouses than before. These results highlight that lowering the average ability of medical graduates did not decrease the likelihood they would work, nor worsen their marriage and labor outcomes. Finally, examining the selection of women in medical school, I show that women from urban middle class families significantly contributed to the overall results.

## **Can Male Dominated Industries Bring Jobs for Women: Evidence from Indonesia**

This paper examines the role of male-biased labor demand shocks in shaping women's work life patterns. The demand shocks I use are in the local level mining sector in Indonesia, a country rich in minerals and mining. The mining sector largely employs men, and its growth could crowd out jobs that commonly employ women. A household income effect of increased male earnings would also reduce female employment. Alternatively, expansion of the mining sector could lead to economic growth and create jobs for women in complementary sectors. To study these effects I use high quality proprietary data on mine locations and value, and compare localities that experienced mine expansions to those that did not. I instrument for mining booms with fluctuations in the world price of minerals. Expansions in the mining industry lead to a small increase in employment for women, mostly through an accompanying growth in the services sector. Overall, the agricultural sector becomes less important in the local economy, and the share of employment in the service and mining sectors rises. Women become employed in health and education services, with more educated women entering finance. Together, these results highlight how a male biased labor demand shock can positively affect women's employment, and result in a structural shift in where they work

## **The Welfare Consequences of Gender Development Policies**

In this paper I study how easing women's access to medical school in Pakistan affected the quantity and quality of doctors downstream. In 1992 the medical school admissions policy was altered so that a pre-existing high entry threshold for women was equalized to that for men. On the one hand, the policy change allowed higher ability women to displace men in medical schools, potentially raising average doctor ability and quality. It also reduced the shortage of women doctors in specialties such as gynecology where they traditionally concentrate and across other specialties as well. On the other hand, however, women medical graduates are less likely to work, work fewer hours, and have short term careers on average relative to their male counterparts. These are factors that could result in doctors becoming more scarce overall. Further, women doctors tend to locate in large cities, so that the shortage would be particularly acute in rural areas. The net benefits and losses of the policy change therefore are unevenly distributed in

the population, and my results suggest that a gender development policy can result in significant overall trade-offs.