Results from the ASER Centre Call for Papers

In June 2015, ASER Centre put out a call for proposals from researchers and graduate students interested in exploring research questions that can be answered using on one or more years of ASER data. We were delighted to receive 28 submissions in response to this announcement.

Of these, an initial shortlist of 18 proposals was generated via a process of internal review by ASER Centre staff, using criteria of relevance, coherence, methodological soundness, and feasibility. In the next round, a double-blind process was followed in reviewing shortlisted proposals: reviewers did not know the identity of the authors of proposals, and authors do not know which reviewers evaluated their proposal. The five-member panel of reviewers comprised: Prof Bharat Ramaswami (Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi); Ms Shobhini Mukerji (Executive Director, JPAL South Asia); Dr Alejandro Ganimian (Education Post-Doctoral Fellow, JPAL South Asia); and Dr Wilima Wadhwa and Dr Suman Bhattacharjea from ASER Centre.

Based on this process, a total of ten proposals were selected by the panel. Authors of these proposals will be invited to develop a full paper for presentation at a conference and subsequent publication in an edited volume.

Next steps

The panel decided that authors of the selected proposals will have till January 31, 2016 to submit the first draft of the paper. This will be presented at a conference in New Delhi in February 2016 (dates to be decided). After the conference, authors will be given one month to submit a final version of the paper that incorporates comments and feedback from the conference. Final papers will be peer reviewed and selected papers will be published in an edited volume.

For more information, please contact Dr Manjistha Banerji at manjistha.banerji@asercentre.org

Selected proposals

In alphabetical order by author name, these are:

Aditi Singhal, Archana Dang, Divya Gupta, Naveen Joseph Thomas, Sonal Dua, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics
Estimating Demand of Education in the Absence of Public Schools

Ankita Khanna, Central English Team, Pratham Education Foundation
Analysis of the Role of Linguistic Distance on English Language Acquisition in Children from Rural India

Chandan Jain, Shiv Nadar University
Learning Outcomes and Access to Electricity in Rural Households

Gitanjali Sen, Shiv Nadar University
Right to Education or Right to Quality Education? Evaluation of Impact on Learning Outcomes

Justin Sandefur, Lant Pritchett, and Amanda Beatty, Centre for Global Development
Learning profiles: The learning crisis is not (mostly) about enrollment

Neha Kumar, National Institute of Labor Economics Research and Development, NITI Aayog, Government of India
Comparability of the Young Lives and ASER in Andhra Pradesh: how do the children fare?

P J Paul, St Stephen's College, University of Delhi
Gender differences and classroom peer effects in learning outcomes: An estimation using the ASER dataset

Prasanthi Ramakrishnan, Oxus Investments
Effect of Medium of Instruction on Learning Outcomes and Dropout Rates

Sneha Lamba, International Centre for Research on Women; **Radhika Kapoor**, Ekstep
Impact of mother tongue and medium of instruction on learning in India

Tanika Chakraborty, IIT Kanpur; **Rajshri Jayaraman,** ESMT; **Nidhi Pande,** University of Delhi
Impact of nutritional interventions on cognitive skills: Evidence from India's Midday Meal Program