

### **Following is the abstract**

#### **Sorting Siblings: Gender and School Choice in India**

The link between gender bias in preferences and outcomes is however obscure when households are faced with a small set of discrete choices. We illustrate this through a study of private school choices. When faced with a binary private school decision, households that place a high value on education or are sufficiently rich send all children to private school while very poor households may send all children to public school. Preference bias is therefore most clearly manifested in outcomes for households with incomes and other characteristics that make them most likely send a fraction of their children to private school. We use a large nationally representative household survey of school choices and student performance in rural India and find, as predicted by the theory, that male bias in private school choices is greatest for households that are predicted to mix siblings across private and public schools, even when they are of the same gender. Moreover, estimates based on data disaggregated by state reveal male bias for this sample of households even in states like Kerala which have often been cited for exemplary achievements in gender equality. We also find evidence that student ability and education are complements in that it is the higher potential achievers that are sent to private school.