

IMPACT OF POLITICAL COMPETITION ON HEALTH: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF THE INDIAN STATES

Sandip Datta¹

¹Doctoral Student, Economics, Department of Humanities and Social Science,
Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Delhi, India.

ABSTRACT

The debate on the effects of political competition on development and welfare is four decades old. Intense political competition may result in greater welfare prospect of the nation. This paper re-examines this proposition by linking the political competition to the different indicators of development. The existing literatures somehow missed this area in Indian context. This analysis shows the impact of political competition on the major components of human development e.g. education and health. Our results suggest that politically-competitive states perform well along the health indicators. Rural areas are benefited from the political competition as compared to the urban areas. Another interesting finding of this paper is that increasing number of female legislator in the assembly has positive impact on health. The states which are politically more competitive and have more female legislator representation are doing well in terms of health. This paper also revisits the debate of growth versus development.