Causal effects of adverse temperature shocks on schooling outcomes in India

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Abstract: Do extreme weather events adversely affect the educational outcomes of kids in India? To address this question, we link records from primary school exams with information on local weather conditions, with a special focus on extreme heat. Preliminary results show that a constant increase in temperature by merely 0.5°C means a drop in the number of students passing the exam by 2% and a drop in the number of highest grades of almost 15%, hinting towards a sizable potential loss in human capital. The effect on the probability of passing the exam is increasingly negative for higher temperature brackets, and the effect is largest for days with a maximum temperature above 40°C. Furthermore, we show evidence that vegetation in the proximity of schools has a strong mitigating effect. These findings suggest that increasing vegetation in the vicinity of schools may foster adaptation to expected long-term changes in climate.

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• In-person: Weston Seminar Room (2.49) in the David Attenborough Building
• Online: Zoom. Please REGISTER to receive Zoom link on the day of the seminar