

Population sex ratios and violence against women: The long-run effects of sex selection in India

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Non-Technical Summary

Violence against women is major public health and social problem that is estimated to affect one in three women globally. This type of violence is arguably hindering social and economic development and its repercussions for long-term development are large.

In this paper, we investigate the role played of sex imbalance in India's population for violence against women. In India, the demographic imbalance is large and has risen since the introduction of ultrasound technology in the 1980's. A technology that allowed parents to sex-select births of boys in detriment to that of girls. The consequences are visible. For instance, the 2011 Census of India reveals that there were 37 million more men than women in the population, up from about 20 million in 1971. In this time, the youth sex ratio rose from 99.22 to 108, and this led to disruption in the relative availability of grooms to brides in the population. For example, in 2005 it was estimated that there is a surplus of 5% of potential grooms in the population. In these same forty years, although total recorded crime in India fell, violence against women increased and is now the fastest growing crime category. In this paper, we provide the first causal evidence of the relationship between sex ratio and violence against women. To do so, we have assembled a novel database of district-level administrative crime data and census data across over the period between 1971-2011.

Our findings show that a surplus of males in the crime-prone and marriageable ages increase violence crime against women without any effects on other crimes. We also attempt to explain why we find this relationship. We first show that increases in sex ratio increase single rates for men. Second, we show that attitudes to violence against women are less equal for those exposed to a higher sex ratio at birth. Finally, we show that marriage quality measures, including self-reported domestic violence, are negatively related to sex ratios.

Population Sex Ratios and Violence against Women: The Long Run Consequences of Sex Selection in India *

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Abstract

This paper investigates the consequences of sex imbalance in India's population for violence against women. We match administrative crime data by category to age-specific sex ratios in census data by district across four decades and, to analyse mechanisms, we also use census data on marriage rates and, household survey data on attitudes to violence against women and marriage quality measures. We find that a surplus of men at age 20-24 increases crimes committed against women, and that this explains about 21% of the rise in gender-based violence. Although less robust, there is some evidence that the youth sex ratio also raises non-gendered forms of violence, but we find no discernible impact upon property and economic crime. In probing mechanisms, we show that marriage rates, marriage quality and attitudes to violence against women are all modified by population sex ratios.

Keywords: sex ratio, violence against women, marriage market, crime, gender attitudes

JEL Classification: J12, J16, N34, K42

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1 Introduction

Violence against women (henceforth VAW) is a major public health and social problem that is estimated to affect one in three women globally (Ellsberg et al., 2008). The annual costs of violence against women regarding medical care and productivity shortfalls are significant, for instance, they are estimated to exceed an annual \$5.8 billion in the U.S. (Aizer, 2010). In addition, VAW has adverse intergenerational consequences, impacting upon the survival, health and education of children of victimized women (Papageorge et al., 2016; Menon, 2015; Aizer and Currie, 2014; Carrell and Hoekstra, 2010; Rawlings and Siddique, 2014). Civil society and scholarly interest in this phenomenon are on the rise, one reflection of which is that Goal 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals released in September 2015 is to “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres”. This calls for a clearer understanding of the causes of violence against women.

In this paper, we investigate violence against women in India as a function of the population sex ratio, i.e. the ratio of males to females. Several studies have documented the deficit of girls in India’s population (Sen, 1992; Coale, 1991; Klasen, 1994; Anderson and Ray, 2010; Hvistendahl, 2012). Importantly, in India and also in China, the fraction of missing girls at birth has been rising since the widespread availability of prenatal sex detection technology and has come to dominate the rise in the all-age population sex ratio (Sudha and Rajan, 1999; Bhalotra and Cochrane, 2010; Chen et al., 2013; Bongaarts and Guilmoto, 2015).

The average imbalance is significant, for instance, the 2011 Census of India reveals that there were 37 million more men than women in the population, up from about 20 million in 1971. In this time the youth sex ratio rose from 99.22 to 108. Although total recorded crime in India fell during this period, violence against women increased and has been the fastest growing crime category. During 1995 to 2010, a period over which comparable data are available, VAW increased by 34%. In this period, VAW has constituted 15% of all crimes in India and 27% of violent crimes.¹

We matched district-level census data on age-specific sex ratios and marriage rates to district-level time series administrative data on crime rates by type of crime to create data from 1972 to 2010. The independent variable of interest is the youth sex ratio, in particular, the ratio of men

¹Rape is the one category of VAW that has been recorded since 1972, and this shows a rise from 0.5 to 1.2 crimes per 100,000 between 1972 and 2010.

to women age 20-24, which is the age at which crime peaks (Theobald and Farrington, 2011).² The outcome variable of interest is violence against women, but we estimate identical models for other forms of non-gender based violent crime, and for non-violent crime.

Previous research suggests that economic factors such as income and unemployment shocks often influence property or economic crime but not violent crime (Ciccarelli, 2017; Freedman and Owens, 2016; Machin and Meghir, 2004; Gould et al., 2002). In India, Iyer and Topalova (2014); Blakeslee and Fishman (2014); Fetzer (2014) have similarly found evidence of a positive relationship between income (as measured by rainfall) and property and violent crime, but not VAW. Some recent work highlights the relevance of non-economic factors - such as emotional cues, loss of self-control- in determining violent crime, including violence against women (Blattman et al., 2015; Card and Dahl, 2011; Dahl and DellaVigna, 2009). However, as discussed below, there is a relative scarcity of research on the determinants of violence against women and on the population sex ratio, and marriage market distortions as a causal factor.

Exploiting within-district variation over time, we find that a one standard deviation increase in the sex ratio of the 20-24-year-old population (which is 0.11) is associated with an increase in violence against women that ranges between 12%-16% an elasticity of 0.74. Our estimates indicate that the surplus of young men explains more than a fifth of the rise in gender-based violence since 1995³. This result is robust to a number of specification checks. We find a similar elasticity when we study the impact of the youth sex ratio on non-gendered violence, although this is more sensitive to specification. We find no evidence that the youth sex ratio influences acquisitive crime, which includes property and economic crime. Our specifications control for economic and demographic determinants of crime, and for cultures of gendered preferences that may drive a spurious association between the sex ratio and violence against women.

Among mechanisms that might explain our findings are the following. First, men and especially younger men are more likely than women to commit crime (Gavrilova and Campaniello, 2015), so an increasing share of men among youth will mechanically lead to more crime, but potentially to more crime of all sorts. A second reason is that a surplus of men among youth will tend to reduce marriage rates, and there is evidence that unmarried men are more likely

²We verify this using the distribution of crime by the age of perpetrator in the Indian crime data too. The precise age range reflects merely the age groupings available in the Indian census. We investigate robustness by including in the equation the sex ratio in neighbouring age groups. We show that the age 20-24 sex ratio reasonably closely tracks its twenty-year lag, the age 0-4 sex ratio, even if there is some modification on account of sex-differentiated mortality after the age of four, and sex-differentiated migration.

³Since the sex ratio of 20-24 rose by 8.7% over the period and VAW rose by 34% since 1995.

to commit crime (Visser et al., 2009; Korenman and Neumark, 1991; Akerlof, 1998; Sampson et al., 2006; Siennick et al., 2014). It seems plausible that a rising share of unmarried men will have larger impacts on VAW (which includes rape) than on economic crime, but we are unaware of previous work investigating the association of marriage or fatherhood with violence against women in particular.

Since 44% of violence against women in our sample is domestic violence (committed by men within marriage), a third potential channel is that the quality of marriage is decreasing for women (Hussam, 2016). One may imagine that the growing relative scarcity of women would improve their marriage market outcomes. However, population growth combined with an age gap at marriage (of about five years) raises the supply of potential brides and this, potentially offsets the increased maleness of the sex ratio; see Bhaskar (2011); d’Albis and De La Croix (2012); Rao (2000).⁴ A fourth possible channel, particular to crimes against women, is that the attitudes of men towards violence against women are shaped by the sex ratio of their birth cohort.⁵ We present some supporting evidence for each of these four possible channels.

Our paper is most closely related to Edlund et al. (2013). Edlund et al. (2013) use data from thirty Chinese provinces through 1988-2004, and document that the increasing share of males among youth is associated with increasing rates of (total) crime, defined as arrests for violent and property crime. The main difference between their study and this paper is that we focus upon crimes against women and, of course, on India.⁶ This is a substantively different question and, as discussed, we find no impacts of the youth sex ratio on property crime.⁷ We also exploit mechanisms that have not been previously considered in the literature (e.g. attitudes formation).

Our first contribution is to a literature on violence against women. A small literature in economics has analysed how violence against women varies with income shocks (Abiona and Koppensteiner, 2016; Sekhri and Storeygard, 2014), the relative income or employment of women (Aizer, 2010; Anderberg et al., 2016; Bhalotra et al., 2016c), transfers programmes (Angelucci, 2008; Hidrobo et al., 2013; Bobonis et al., 2013; Ramos, 2016) and historical attitudes to women (Tur-Prats, 2015; Alesina et al., 2016). We present the first evidence of the importance of the

⁴Bhaskar (2011) contrasts this with China.

⁵ Reasons for this association that we discuss are the intergenerational transmission of gender preferences and exposure to sisters.

⁶Data on crimes against women were not available at the province level for China.

⁷In contrast to India, violent and property crime has been rising in China while crime against women (as measured by rape) has been declining (Edlund et al., 2007).

male to female ratio at age 20-24 in generating violence against women. Our findings have their most direct bearing on India, China and other South and South East Asian countries where the population sex ratio is skewed in favour of men on account of gendered social preferences. However, they have wider relevance on account of a different phenomenon inflicting OECD countries, which is the rising share of unmarried men, which raises the potential for increased crime against women (Akerlof, 1998; Dorn and Hanson, 2015).

Our second contribution is to the literature on the causes and consequences of increasing male-bias in the sex ratio in India and China. Most research in this area investigates causes (Qian, 2008; Ebenstein and Sharygin, 2009; Ebenstein, 2011; Almond et al., 2013; Pino et al., 2016; Anukriti et al., 2016a, 2017; Bhalotra et al., 2016a; Pino et al., 2016). Although there is some evidence on the long run consequences of sex selection in China (Edlund et al., 2013; Ebenstein and Sharygin, 2009; Rao, 2000) ours is one of the few studies to provide evidence for India, where many features of the landscape are different including the absence of the One Child Policy and weaker enforcement of women’s rights.⁸

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses the empirical strategy. Section 3 describes the data. Section 4 presents the results and, section 5 discusses potential mechanisms. Section 6 concludes.

2 Empirical Specification

The hypothesis of interest is that violence against women (VAW) is increasing in the male-biasedness of the youth sex ratio. Since previous research (mentioned above) suggests that men and, especially, young and unmarried men, are more prone to crime in general, we estimate a series of equations, for all violent and acquisitive crime, and for sub-categories of crime (defined in Table 11). We use the following difference-in-differences specification, where we exploit within district variation in these variables over time, across five decades and 258 districts. The specification is similar to that in Edlund et al. (2013).

$$Crime_{dst} = \gamma_1 SR_{dst}^{20-24} + \pi_1 SR_{dst}^{0-4} + \beta' X_{dst} + \lambda_d + \omega_t + g_d t + \epsilon_{dst} \quad (1)$$

⁸There is an interesting body of theoretical work discussing consequences. See Becker (2009); Chiappori et al. (2002); Angrist (2002); Abramitzky et al. (2011); La Mattina (2016). When parents have intrinsic son preference, marriage market outcomes may be more nuanced. See Edlund (1999); Bhaskar (2011).

where *Crime* is the rate of crimes per capita (in logarithm) in a district-state-year (*dst*) and *SR* denotes the age-specific ratio of men to women. The coefficient of interest is γ_1 , which captures the effect of the youth sex ratio (age 20-24) on crime. This is an age range in which crime rates tend to peak and the period at which the share of unmarried men is high. To the extent that most of the variation in the youth sex ratio is determined in early childhood, in any year in our sample, the youth sex ratio is effectively lagged 20 to 24 years concerning the year in which crime is measured. We control for the early childhood sex ratio to allow this to proxy active son preference - as parents manipulate the sex ratio in this age group when they have more girls than they desire (Anukriti et al., 2016a). Since a male surplus in the 0-4 age group clearly has no direct impact on crime, this control allows us to distinguish the mechanisms linking a youth male surplus to crime against women from underlying son preference. The equation includes district fixed-effects (λ_d) that absorb unobserved persistent determinants of violence against women. Regional variation in predictors of crime have been highlighted by, for instance, Dyson and Moore (1983); Agarwal (1994); Alesina et al. (2016); Tur-Prats (2015). Year fixed-effects (ω_t) control flexibly for shocks common to all districts in India such as world movements in gold prices that could affect VAW (Menon, 2015).⁹

We also include district and state level covariates that control for region-year variation in demographic and economic factors that are potentially predictive of crime, and that may also influence migration by sex and hence the youth sex ratio. The district level controls include the literacy rate, the gender gap in the literacy rate (the log ratio), the share of the population in rural areas, rainfall, and the share of the population identified as belonging to scheduled castes and tribes. In a robustness check, we control for district-level population growth to account for the fact that differential population growth paths affect the ratio of potential brides to grooms (Edlund, 1999; Bhaskar, 2011). The state-level covariates (not available at the district level over time) are per capita income, police personnel per capita and state election dummies that allow for a potential electoral cycle in crime (Levitt, 2002; Ghosh, 2006). Importantly, district rainfall and state income will together control for economic changes; rainfall being an important predictor of income in India (Virmani, 2006).¹⁰ We nevertheless account for economic conditions by controlling for district-level rainfall and state income. To allow that we nonetheless do not

⁹Menon (2015) shows that gold prices at the time of marriage influence domestic violence. Bhalotra et al. (2016a) show that gold prices in pregnancy and the birth month influence the sex ratio age 0-4, but this is effectively a 20-year lag on the youth sex ratio variable that we use. This is discussed further below.

¹⁰Unemployment rates are less useful given that most people cannot afford to be unemployed, leading to an array of casual and/or part time employment.

capture all potential district-time level variation that may confound the relationship of interest, we include district-specific linear trends (g_{dt}) and in a separate model, state-year fixed effects (θ_{st}). The last term in (1) is the stochastic error term, ϵ_{dst} . In our specifications, we clustered standard-errors at the district-decade level to account for possible correlation in the errors within the district over time (Burgess et al., 2013; Sekhri and Storeygard, 2014; Blakeslee and Fishman, 2014).

The skewness of the youth ratio (age 20-24) tracks the skewness of the child ratio (age 0-4) twenty years earlier. The main determinant of cross-district and within-district time variation in the 20-24 ratio is thus son-preferring behaviour enacted twenty years before, making it unlikely that the 20-24 ratio is correlated with contemporary determinants of crime.¹¹ What we wish to capture is the excess of young men in the crime and marriage markets conditional upon cultures of son preference.

We include the sex ratio among children age 0-4 so as to condition upon son preference cultures, known to vary across India’s districts but to be evolving over time. There is a vast literature documenting that the sex ratio age 0-4 proxies for son preference, involving female-biased abortion and under-investment in girls in early childhood, see for instance, (Miller, 1981; Sen, 2003; Bhalotra and Cochrane, 2010).¹² It provides a falsification test as children of this age do not commit crime.

We further investigate inclusion of the sex ratio of ages bordering age 20-24 (i.e. age 15-19 and 25-34) to examine sensitivity to our choice of age. We also include sex ratios for ages 35 and older. Since the share of unmarried men falls by this age and crime proneness also falls, we interpret these as further checks on the mechanisms driving the relationship of crime with the surplus of 20-24 year old men. In other words, we distinguish the effects of a general population surplus of males from a surplus of those with a proclivity to engage in crime. Finally,

¹¹The youth sex ratio will evolve from the child sex ratio on account of differences in migration and mortality after the age of 4 by gender. Mortality falls sharply after the age of five, and any sex differences in mortality after age 4 will tend to follow the same patterns as male-female mortality age 0-4, son preference being the systematic determinant of both. The 2011 Indian census records gross migration rates across districts for men and women of 4.5% and 10%, respectively (Appendix D-3 of the Census 2011 publications, [Census of India \(2011\)](#)). Sex differences in migration arise as men migrate towards job opportunities whereas women migrate primarily for marriage (Mumford et al., 2000). This will only matter for identification if sex-differences in migration are correlated with crime. We expect the controls to adjust for this.

¹²(Bhalotra and Cochrane, 2010) demonstrate a sharp increase in the share of males at birth following the first imports of ultrasound scanners in the mid-1980s, and a further increase after delicensing led to local production in the mid-1990s. These authors cite documentary evidence of the widespread availability of prenatal sex detection at low cost.

in the Appendix we discuss instrumenting the youth sex ratio with the with the availability of ultrasound, which [Bhalotra and Cochrane \(2010\)](#) argue was driven by exogenous changes in import and licensing regulations. While our results are not significant due to a weak instruments problem, the coefficient of interest is positive. We shall conduct a robustness check in which we include older and younger age-groups that are likely to be similarly affected by crime but unequally affected by the marriage market.¹³

After presenting the main results we discuss alternative specifications and robustness checks on the baseline strategy.

3 Data

3.1 Crime Data

We use the yearly publications of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of the Government of India over the period of 1971-2011, and process the available crime area information to create a district-level data panel for 258 districts across the 16 major states of India. Districts are the lowest administrative units in India, similar to prefectures in China or counties in the United States.¹⁴ The NCRB provides data for 18 categories of crime and using these we construct four different crime rates. These are violence against women, non-gender based violence, property crime and economic crime; see Table 11 for definitions.¹⁵ To avoid outlier effects, all crime variables are winsorized at 1%.

Prior to 1988, the only measure of crime against women in Indian administrative data was rape. Kidnappings disaggregated by gender became available from 1988, and the other categories of VAW were included from 1995. Similarly, the information on other categories of violent crime (such as arson, hurt) was added after 1995. In the analysis, these jumps in the series will be accounted for by year fixed effects. Since the changes were federal they will not exhibit a correlation with district-year variation in the youth sex ratio.

¹³The crime data do not provide victimisation rates by age-group.

¹⁴Appendix A provides a description of how India gathers crime statistics of India and how we aggregated to the district-level across years.

¹⁵VAW includes domestic violence, rape, molestation, sexual harassment, kidnapping of women and girls. Non-gender based violence includes murder, riots, kidnapping of males, dacoity, arson and hurt. Property crime includes theft, robbery and burglary. Economic crime includes cheating, counterfeiting and criminal breach of contract. A detailed description of these categories can be found in the Indian Penal Code ([Gandhi, 2010](#)).

Figure 2 shows that gender-based crime has tended to increase over the period at least until quite recently (even after visually adjusting for the first and second spikes highlighting the incorporation of the new crime categories in 1988 and 1995 respectively). Over the period the rape rate (which is the one category consistently measured through the period) grew from 0.6 to 1.8 crimes per 100,000 population and gender-based violence is the fastest growing crime rate in the country, having grown from 11 to 14 in 1995-2010. On average there are 13 reports of crimes against women per 100,000 population between 1995-2010. In contrast, both non-gendered violence and acquisitive crime have been decreasing throughout the period. Acquisitive crime accounts for the largest share of crime, with a rate of 53 for property and 5.2 for economic crime, and 26 for non-gender based violence, all per 100,000 population (Table 14).

In addition to administrative changes in coding crime, there are trends in the reporting-behaviour of crime, especially in women reporting crimes against them. It is inherently challenging to disentangle reporting from incidence. However, using a variety of strategies, [Iyer et al. \(2012\)](#) present compelling evidence that the mandated increase in the share of women in local government in India has led to increased reporting by women of crimes against them. There is no evidence one way or the other of trends in reporting for other crimes. We control for crime-specific trends in reporting by estimating crime-specific models and including district trends and state-year fixed effects, in addition to district and year fixed effects and police coverage per capita. Let us nevertheless consider the likely direction of any bias. The possible direction is that women are less likely to report VAW in district-years in which the youth sex ratio is more male-biased. In this case, we would under-estimate the relationship of interest. Thus for under-reporting of VAW to drive our conclusions, it would need to be greater in district-years with less male-biased youth sex ratios, and it would need to evolve in a non-linear manner that exhibits district variation within states conditional upon police coverage. In a robustness exercise, we difference across VAW and property crime, and this specification allows us to control for crime-district fixed-effects and crime-year fixed effects which we expect mitigates the problem.

The NCRB does not publish district or state level crime data disaggregated by age and gender of the offender and/or victim. Consequently, we cannot study the age-gender profile of offenders and victims across districts and over time. However, we were able to identify some relevant descriptive information. First, there is evidence that in India, as elsewhere ([Gavrilova and Campaniello, 2015](#); [Cameron et al., 2016](#)), men are more crime prone. According to the 2011 NCRB annual report, males commit 94% of total crime and 85% of VAW (see Table 12).

Second, there is evidence that in India, in line with other countries, crime rates peak among men under the age of 25 (see Table 12). The sociology, criminology and economics literature points to the crime-prone age being between 16-25 (Sampson and Laub, 2005; Nagin and Land, 1993). We do not have age 16-25 identified in the data but we can observe a few critical aspects related to the age-gender profile of offenders in India. These are presented in Table 12. First, total crime is mostly committed by males as the share of crimes committed by men is 94%. Second, men commit the vast majority of VAW with the percentage of VAW crimes committed by males being 85%. When it comes to age, those aged between 18-30 are the primary crime-prone group. Men in this age-group commit 43% of all crime and 42% of VAW. With this, it is plausible to assume that men are more crime-prone and, that crime peaks at 18-30 years of age.

The average age at first marriage for males is 22.6 (s.d. 4.7) (Table 21), and the share of unmarried men is 63% for the age group 20-24 dropping to 19% in the age group 25+, and to close to zero by age 35-44 (see Table 13).¹⁶ Overall, these descriptive statistics motivate our decision to use the sex ratio age 20-24 in the analysis. However, as discussed above, we include other age groups in specification checks.

3.2 Sex Ratio Data

We use decadal census data on age-specific population sex ratios at the district-level from five rounds over the period 1971 to 2011. The Census provides information disaggregated by age groups of 5-year bins starting from age 0 to 4. Since we have annual crime statistics but decadal sex ratios to make use of the yearly-variation in crime we use several interpolation techniques to estimate the yearly sex ratio. Our main specification uses annual sex-ratios by age-group estimated using cubic spline interpolation between census years (Smith et al., 2004; Karlsson and Ziebarth, 2016). We test robustness to replacing this with a linear, linear spline and cubic interpolation. The annual estimates of the sex ratio are similar with these different approaches.¹⁷ In a further specification check, we drop the intercensal years altogether and define the dependent variable as the crime rate averaged over a decade as a function of sex ratios at the start of the decade. The district level census panel was obtained from the Indian District Database of the University of Maryland for the Census rounds of 1971 and 1981 and the Census of India publications for the rounds 1991, 2001 and 2011. Table 14 presents summary statistics. For

¹⁶Note that the NCRB creates age groups such that 18-30 is the closest to the census age grouping of 20-24.

¹⁷In Appendix A we show the trend in the sex ratio estimated using these various methods.

1971 and 1981 we only have age-specific population data up to the age of 35 years. As a result, the specification check that includes older age-groups is restricted to data from 1991 onwards.

The population sex ratio in India has been male-biased since the first Indian census was conducted in the mid 19th century [Sen \(2003\)](#). It exhibits considerable regional variation, and the regional pattern has persisted for more than a century, reflecting cultures of son preference that have been argued to emerge from differences in India in kinship structures, property rights and women’s participation in agriculture (driven by soil type) ([Anttila-Hughes et al., 2016](#); [Carranza, 2014](#); [Dyson and Moore, 1983](#); [Sen, 2003](#)). The sex ratio at birth has shown a particular rise since the mid-1980s, reflecting female foeticide, while the sex ratio in the population older than age five has stabilized ([Bhalotra and Cochrane, 2010](#)). The sex ratio in the latest Census of 2011 was 106 males per 100 females which is considerably higher than the biologically normal total ratio ([Census of India, 2001](#); [Haub and Gribble, 2011](#)).¹⁸

The sex ratio of adults age 20-24 has risen over time in line with the birth ratio or the 0-4 ratio (Figure 1);(see Table 14). The child sex ratio (age 0-4) is stable between 1971 and 1981 but, after prenatal sex detection becomes feasible, it jumps from 102 in 1981 to 104 in 1991 and to just under 108 in 2001. This cohort trend in excess of males at birth persists to later ages. The Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.6. In Figure 1 we plot the sex ratio by age-group of those aged 0-4 in the pooled sample. We also present a scatter plot in which district-year sex ratios for the age group 20-24 are plotted against the sex ratio of those same cohorts by district 20 years before. This relationship is clearly positive and its coefficient is about 1.02 (see Figure 1). See Figures 1 and 3. Notice that the spatial distribution of the sex ratios exhibits variation across districts within states.

There was massive variation in levels and trends in crime and sex ratios across the Indian districts (Figure 3). Besides, as we show, there is a correlation between high youth sex ratios, rates of single men and VAW.

3.3 Data on Covariates

Literacy rates and shares of the rural, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population are measured at the district-level for all five rounds of Census. We also construct the literacy gap

¹⁸China performs even worse than India. While India and China are outliers, together India and China account for 50.4% of the global population ([Hesketh and Xing, 2006](#)).

between males and females as a proxy for district-year gender equality. We account for income shocks by including total annual rainfall. This is gathered from the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC)¹⁹. We use information on total monthly precipitation measured at the 0.5 degree resolution over 1970-2010 and map it to district centroids to calculate total annual rainfall. This measure has been extensively used in the literature and has been shown to accurately measure the spatial heterogeneity in rainfall across Indian districts and, to capture income variability (Iyer and Topalova, 2014).

There are no measures of law and order at the district-level but we have police strength per capita (in logarithms) at the state level from NCRB publications. We define a dummy for state election years to account for spending cycles in law and order using data from the Election Commission of India. We also do not have a consistent time series of income by district, so instead, we use state per capita income (in logarithms) collected from the Reserve Bank of India.²⁰ Table 14 presents summary statistics.

3.4 Data on Attitudes and Marriage Quality

We obtain data on the share of married men and women by age group and across districts using the two publicly available data from Census 1991 and 2011. We also obtain marriage rates from the third round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) which surveyed all men and all women of reproductive age. This allows to document the share of men married at age 20-24 by birth cohort. The marriage rates are comparable across the census and survey data, which validates the representativeness of the survey data (see Table 13). The NFHS-3 sampled 94,324 men and 124,385 women, and for consistency with the census analysis, we use the information from the 16 major states only. Also, we can match a randomly selected sample of men and women for which couples identifiers are available. We use the Census data to establish the link between sex ratios and marriage rates. To look at attitudes towards domestic violence and marriage quality, we make use of the NFHS data for men and women and married women and couples, respectively. A potential drawback of using the NFHS-3 is the fact that we cannot identify district (the local marriage market), only state of residence. Summary statistics are presented in Tables 21 and 22.

¹⁹The data are available at <http://www.trfetzner.com/data/>, accessed 09.11.2016.

²⁰There is no district-year level annual data on unemployment for India and although the NSS does gather unemployment and employment, there is an array of part-time and informal work in response to no unemployment benefits. This makes unemployment a difficult measure of economic opportunities.

4 Results

We present estimates of equation (1) for total crime, violence against women (VAW), non-gendered violence, property and economic crime in Table 1. Moving from columns (1) to (2) we include state-level control variables, and from (2) to (3) we include instead state-year dummies (our preferred specification). The main finding is that a surplus of men age 20-24 increases violent crime but not acquisitive (economically motivated) crime. For violence against women, this result is robust to all controls, including state-year fixed effects and population growth -columns (1) of Table 4)-and the inclusion of a dummy for the introduction of political gender quotas in India (columns (2) of Table 4). Regarding effect sizes, an increase of one standard deviation in sex ratio for ages 20-24 (0.11, around a sample, mean of 1.033) raises gender-based violence by 12.69%. In columns (3) of Table 4 we present estimates of (1) using a log-log model instead (see Table 4), and the elasticity is close to one for violence against women.

Although we see some tendency for the youth sex ratio to raise non-gendered violence, this result is sensitive to functional form (log-log vs semi-log) and to control for population growth. For property and economic crime, the coefficients are smaller and not statistically significant. Total crime, which is the sum of the four categories displayed has an elasticity of close to 0.5 with respect to the youth sex ratio, which is also not significant. A useful perspective on this is provided by comparing estimates of a broadly similar specification for China in [Edlund et al. \(2013\)](#). The Chinese data were not available disaggregated by crime type by province over time, but total crime (violent and property) exhibits an elasticity of 3.7 which is significant at the 5% level.

The child sex ratio is not statistically significant (and tends to attract a negative coefficient) in the equations for VAW which is where it is pertinent as a control for trends in son preference.²¹ The primary results are also robust to including in the equation the sex ratios of the age groups neighbouring 20-24, that is the ratios at ages 15-19 and 25-34 (Table 2).

The covariates are displayed in Table 3 in the Online Appendix. In line with [Iyer and Topalova \(2014\)](#), we see that non-gendered crime is higher when rainfall is lower, consistent with a literature suggesting economic motives for crime. Similar to [Ghosh \(2006\)](#), we find

²¹It is statistically significant in the estimations for non-gendered violence. We do not have a clear explanation of this, but since children 0-4 clearly do not commit crime, it suggests that district-years in which there is a higher rate of female foeticide (or excess child mortality amongst girls) are also district-years in which non-gendered violence is high.

evidence of an electoral cycle in crime but only for a non-gendered crime which decreases in the run-up to an election.

4.1 Robustness

In addition to adjusting for covariates, conditioning on district linear trends, state-year effects and sex ratios for ages other than 20-24, we conducted some other specification checks. First, we re-estimated the main equations in Table 1 using just the five census data points, rather than interpolating the sex ratio between decades. We defined the dependent variables as the decadal change in the logarithm of the crime rate and regressed this upon the sex ratio (and other census covariates) measured at the beginning of the decade. So for instance, we allow the surplus of males in 1971 to determine the change in crime between 1971 and 1981.²² See Table 3.

As discussed briefly in the Introduction, the deficit of women in the age-group 20-24 may not translate directly into a shortage of brides for men age 20-24 if men marry younger women (the age gap is about five years) and if the population is growing. To account for differences in population growth that could impact upon the marriage market and marital match quality, we add population growth as an additional control (see columns 1 of Table 4). This creates no significant change in the main results.

The introduction of gender quotas in villages since the 1990's has been shown to increase reporting rates. We check whether our result is sensitive to including in our specification an indicator for the year in which the state implemented the quota, following (Iyer et al., 2012). We present these results in Table 4 column 2. The results are not sensitive to this.

We also explore the sensitivity of our results to functional form by including sex ratios in logarithms (columns 3 of Table 4). Since crime is already in logarithms, the coefficients in this log-log model are elasticities. We also present results using an alternative measure of sex ratios, the share of males by age-group to total population (columns 4 of Table 4). Finally, we also present results estimates without the inclusion of controls and separately, with the inclusion of gender literacy gap that would account for changing differences in reporting or tolerance towards crime (see Table 19 in Appendix A). The results are robust to these additional tests.

²²In an alternative specification we followed Dorn and Hanson (2015) and used a first-differenced model. Results remain qualitatively similar and are available upon request.

We estimated a triple-difference type specification, exploiting variation across district, year and crime category. Estimates of the previous double-difference equation show that a surplus of males age 20-24 increases violent crime against women but has no statistically discernible impact on property crime (these results are presented later). On this premise, we specify VAW as the treated crime and property crime as the control crime. This specification does not *require* that the youth sex ratio has a zero impact on property crime (although, statistically, we show it does), but it allows us to estimate the differential impact of the youth sex ratio on VAW relative to property crime. We drop other forms of crime from this sample, namely non-gendered violence and acquisitive crime. This sort of specification has been used before in the health and crime literature (Jayachandran and Lleras-Muney, 2009; Blakeslee and Fishman, 2014). The specification is as follows:

$$Crime_{cdt} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 SR_{dt}^{20-24} + \gamma_2 (SR_{dt}^{20-24} \times T_c) + \beta_2 T_c + \beta' X_{dt} + \lambda_{cd} + \omega_{ct} + g_d t + \theta_{st} + \epsilon_{cdt} \quad (2)$$

where, as before, $Crime_{cdt}$ is the logarithm of per capita crime of category c in district d of state s measured in year t . We interact the coefficient of interest (SR^{20-24}) with a dummy (T_c) that takes the value one if crime type c is gender-based violence (*treated* crime) and zero if it is property crime (*control* crime). The coefficient on this term, γ_2 , captures the influence of the surplus of men age 20-24 on VAW relative to property crime and we expect $\gamma_2 > 0$. Since we pool two sorts of crime here, the district fixed-effects are now crime-specific (λ_{cd}), allowing that regional cultures and other time-invariant unobserved factors are specific to crime type. Similarly the year fixed-effects are crime-specific (ω_{ct}) to allow for instance that national shocks such as the 1991 economic reforms may have affected property crime but not gender-based violence, and to allow for crime-specific variation in national trends in reporting crime (Iyengar, 2009; Aizer and Dal Bó, 2009; Iyer et al., 2012; Miller and Segal, 2014). We report robust standard errors twoway-clustered at the district-decade and crime category category.

For results of this specification to be biased by omitted trends, these would have to vary not only by district and year but also by crime-type. Moreover, as in equation (1), they would have to be correlated with the ratio of men to women age 20-24 while being uncorrelated with the ratio of boys to girls age 0-4. Put this way, we cannot think of a likely confounder.²³ Equation

²³For instance, any district-year omitted variables that lead to gender differences in migration or mortality that influence the youth sex ratio are likely to be common across crime categories and differencing the impact of the youth sex ratio across the two types of crimes addresses this.

(2) also provides a test of the significance of the difference in the impact of a surplus of young men on violence against women relative to property crime.

See Table 5 which displays a sequence of successively richer controls. The relationship between VAW and the youth sex ratio remains positive, smaller than before but not significantly so (see Table 1).

Next, we present a robustness test to ensure our results are not due to potential measurement error concerns related to the yearly transformation of the decadal data. We make the decadal data (so $T=5$) in levels and repeat an identical model to that in (1). Also, we also present a first-differences model again, similar to that in (1). We present these results in Table 20 in Appendix A. In both approaches, we find identical estimates to those in Table 1 and the coefficients on 20-24 are not statistically different from those in Table 1.

Finally, we attempted to use an instrumental variables approach. In Appendix C and in Tables 28, 29 and 30, we present these results and detailed explanation as to why we think this is not the correct approach in this setting.

5 Mechanisms

In the Introduction, we discussed alternative mechanisms that might explain why a male surplus at age 20-24 results in increased VAW. Since the maleness effect- a compositional effect- can occur at most account for an elasticity of 0.5 (see Edlund et al. (2013)), an elasticity greater than this suggests a behavioural effect. In this section, we discuss the evidence on behavioural effects operating through a rising share of unmarried men, deteriorating marriage quality for women, and changing attitudes toward VAW.

5.1 Marriage rates

Previous research, cited earlier, has documented the civilizing effects of marriage on crime. We know of no prior research linking unmarried men to VAW, although this association seems like a natural one to make. Since 1995, when crimes against women other than rape are being recorded, the share of rape, sexual harassment, molestation and kidnapping in all VAW is 56%.

It is plausible that unmarried men are more likely to commit these crimes. To assess the

association between the 20-24 surplus of men and rates of marriage of men in that age-group, we used both census and survey data. First, using district-year level census averages, we estimate:

$$Unmarried_{dc}^{g,k} = \alpha_0 + \gamma SR_{dc}^k + X'_{dc} + \alpha_c + \lambda_d + \epsilon_{dc} \quad (3)$$

where $Unmarried_{dc}^{g,k}$ is the share of unmarried individuals of gender g , of cohort k in district d at census c . The sex ratio, SR_{dc}^k , is the ratio of males to females of cohort k in the district d in census c and the coefficient γ is the coefficient of interest, determining how the age-specific sex ratio translates into the probability of marriage at a particular age. We condition upon a vector of district characteristics (X_{dc}), namely, the share of rural population, the literacy rate and the share of SC/ST population. We allow for cross-age effects, i.e., for the sex ratio outside the k age-group to determine marriage rates in this group. Our specifications always include district fixed-effects (λ_d) and a census round dummy (α_c); recall that data availability restricts us to two census rounds, 1991 and 2011, for this piece of the analysis. We expect increases in the sex ratio of cohort k to be positively correlated with the fraction of never-married men ($\gamma > 0$) in that group and negatively correlated with that of women ($\gamma < 0$).

We use data on age-specific marriage rates for adults age 15-44. Across all age groups, the rates of non-marriage are higher for men than for women. As expected, the probability of being unmarried declines sharply with age, and is small by age 35-44, when it is 3.5% for men and 1.2% for women. In the 20-24 age range, on average 62% of men are unmarried, compared with 23% of women, consistent with an age gap in marriage that averages at about 5.016 in our study period (see Table 13). Using the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) data, that surveyed individuals of reproductive age in 2004-2005, we see broadly consistent rates, with 74.5% of men and 32% of women age 20-24 being single.

The regression estimates using census data are in Table 6. A one standard deviation increase in the maleness of the sex ratio of 20-24-year-olds (0.11) is associated with a 2 percentage point increase in the share of unmarried men age 20-24. This result is most relevant for our analysis. In fact, 20-24 year olds observed in census 1991 were born in 1967-1971, before the introduction of ultrasound prenatal sex detection technology, and 20-24-year-olds enumerated in 2011 were born 1987-1991 after. Since previous research shows that the introduction of ultrasound technology, driven by exogenous changes in trade and industrial policy (Bhalotra and Cochrane, 2010) led to a sharp rise in the maleness of the sex ratio at birth, these coefficients may be deemed to

have a causal interpretation.

We also observe that the impact of a 1 s.d. increase in the maleness of the youth sex ratio on the share of all unmarried men age 15-44 is 1.42 percentage points. The same 0.11 increase in the male surplus at 20-24 translates into a reduction in the share of unmarried women of this age of 1.5 percentage points. In India, eventually, almost everyone marries (see Table 13 and the social stigma associated with being unmarried is high, at least for women. So our attention is focused upon age-specific rates and in particular, the data demonstrate that a large fraction of men 20-24 is unmarried and that this is increasing in the sex ratio in their age group.

5.2 Attitudes towards domestic violence

The third round of the NFHS data contains the first attempt to gather data from men, and it includes all men rather than only the partners of respondent women (which was the case in the earlier rounds). We hypothesize that the (self-reported) attitudes of men and women towards intimate partner violence are shaped by the sex ratio in their birth year. There are two potential channels at play. First, men growing up without sisters or with fewer sisters may have different preferences (and, similarly, for women growing up with more males around them) (Teso, 2016; Oswald and Powdthavee, 2010). Second, previous work cited above shows that the population sex ratio at birth (and in the early years, 0-4) reflects conscious attempts by parents to influence the sex composition of their children through either foeticide or purposive under-investment in survival, for instance, in breastfeeding or immunization. So if a more male-biased sex ratio at the birth of an individual reflects more gender bias among their parents, then it is plausible that their attitudes, growing up with those parents, are more gender biased. We cannot distinguish between the first and second channel as the NFHS does not link adult siblings, or record the number or gender of siblings of respondent adults.

Since we now use the sex ratio at birth rather than the sex ratio of young adults, we have sufficient data in the post-ultrasound period to exploit the sharp pre vs post ultrasound increase in the birth sex ratio to aid identification (this is illustrated in Bhalotra and Cochrane (2010) who argue it as a causal increase). The identifying assumption is that attitudes towards VAW would have been the same in the absence of the exogenous change caused by the introduction of ultrasound that affected sex ratios at birth. We use a conservative separation of the pre and post ultrasound birth cohorts, as those born between 1957-1979 vs those born between 1980-

1990, although our results are not sensitive to cutting the data in 1985. The youngest cohorts, born 1990, are aged 14-15 in NFHS-3 (conducted in 2004-05), and so they just enter the sample of reproductive age adults. To measure the intensity of exposure to ultrasound we merge in state-level data on the child sex ratio (age 0-4) from the Census years of 1961 to 1991 measured at the year of birth of each. We employ the following difference-in-difference specification:

$$Attitudes_{ist} = \alpha_0 + \delta_1(CSR_{st} \times Post_t) + \beta_1 CSR_{st} + \beta_2 Post_t + X'_{ist} + \gamma_s + \lambda_t + \epsilon_{ist} \quad (4)$$

where CSR_{st} is the ratio of males to females of ages 0-4 at the birth-year t of individual i in state s ; $Post_t$ is a dummy variable that takes values 1 for individuals born in or after 1980 and 0 otherwise. The coefficient δ measures the differential impact on attitudes of the maleness of the child sex ratio across those born after versus before the introduction of ultrasound. The coefficients β_1 capture the pre-trend in the child sex ratios by state (which may reflect trends in gender gaps in mortality) and β_2 allows that, for some omitted reason, there is a post-ultrasound break in the underlying trend in attitudes towards gender violence. We include a set of individual-specific covariates, X_{ist} , which are the wealth-index of the household, age, educational attainment and a rural/urban dummy, but the estimates are not sensitive to these controls. We estimate equation (4) separately for men and women and present the summary statistics in the Online Appendix (Table 8).

The dependent variables are created from individual responses to a module of questions on attitudes towards domestic violence. Male and female respondents are asked, for different domains, whether they tolerate domestic violence.²⁴ Using these responses we create an acceptance index by summing the binary answers, so the index varies between 0 and 5. We also use a binary measure which takes the value 0 if the respondent never justifies physical abuse and 1 if they justify it in at least one domain. On average 40% of men and 42% of women answer that at least some form of physical abuse is justified (Table 8). The results of estimating equation (4) are in Table 7.

We find that among men born after the introduction of ultrasound technology, a one standard deviation increase in the child sex ratio (0.028) created an additional 11% percentage point increase in the binary indicator of tolerance of violence against women. These results are not

²⁴The precise phrasing used in DHS is “Do you justify wife-beating if...”: i) ...she goes out without telling you?; ii) ...she burns the food?; iii) ... she refuses to have sex?; iv) ...neglects the children? and, v) argues?.

driven by tolerance in one particular domain, suggesting a fairly pervasive change in attitudes (see 10 in the Online Appendix). Estimating the same equation for women, using the child sex ratio in their birth years, we find no evidence that women’s attitudes have worsened. In fact, the coefficients are negative suggesting that women’s tolerance for violence has decreased. These results are important to our main results since domestic violence represents 44% of total VAW.

These results line up with those found in [Grosjean and Khattar \(2015\)](#) who show that in Australia in areas where the sex ratio of English colonizers was high, current acceptance of more equal gender roles is lower. [Hussam \(2016\)](#) shows, using the same data, that women born after the introduction of ultrasound technology had worse marriage outcomes, but she does not study the attitudes data.

5.3 Marriage quality

One might expect that as the population sex ratio becomes more male-biased so that at any given age there are fewer women than men available on the marriage market, women’s marriage prospects would improve ([Abramitzky et al., 2011](#)). However, as long as there is positive population growth, this will be offset by women tending to marry older men- the hypothesis of marriage squeeze. [d’Albis and De La Croix \(2012\)](#) estimates that, in the year 2000, India had 1.4 men for every potential bride. We estimate that the relative availability of grooms to brides in the population evolved from a deficit of 98.5 potential grooms to 100 potential brides in 1992 to a surplus of 0.6%, 4.3% and 5.1% by 1998 and 2005, respectively (see Table 10).²⁵

To investigate the effects of the youth sex ratio on marriage quality we follow [Anukriti et al. \(2017\)](#) in using two features of the Indian marriage market to identify the effect of sex ratios on marriage quality. First, we use the fact that the marriage market is endogamous along caste (and religious) lines. This feature has been shown to be very persistent within caste groups ([Banerjee et al., 2013](#)).²⁶ The second feature, is the fact that the sex ratio varies by caste lines with the higher castes having more male-biased sex ratios than, the lower castes (scheduled caste/tribe groups (SC/ST)) ([Chakraborty and Kim, 2010](#); [Jayachandran, 2017a](#)). Figure 6 plots the sex ratio (left panel) and marriage rates (right panel) by age and caste groups. It shows that the sex ratio for the higher caste groups is higher across the age distribution. The all-India average

²⁵To obtain these figures we calculate the Missing Brides Index following [d’Albis and De La Croix \(2012\)](#) and using micro-level data from all available rounds of the National Family Health Survey of India.

²⁶Since we use Census data we cannot identify religion as this information is not available by age-group.

sex ratio is 104.37 males per 100 females among the higher castes, 103.59 among SC and 99.77 for ST. This is consistent with marriage patterns which show higher marriage rates in the lower caste groups with more equal sex ratios. The upshot for our purposes is that we can exploit (a) caste endogamy and (b) variation in the male surplus across caste groups. In fact we exploit variation in the youth sex ratio across not only caste but also state and (cohort) exposure to ultrasound technology.

We model the quality of a woman’s marital match as a function of the sex ratio of the mating pool available within each state and for each age-caste group, conditioning on the wife’s pre-marriage characteristics. We estimate the following triple difference specification:

$$Y_{isca} = \alpha_0 + \delta_2(SR_{sca} \times Post_a) + \beta_3 SR_{sca} + \beta_4 Post_a + X'_i + \gamma_s + \zeta_c + \lambda_a + \epsilon_{isca} \quad (5)$$

where Y_{isca} is an indicator of the quality of the husband of woman i . The interaction term $(SR_{sca} \times Post_a)$ measures the differential effect of the sex ratio on the husband’s quality for a given woman i in-state s of caste group c born before vs after the introduction of ultrasound. The coefficient of interest is δ_2 . Pre-determined characteristics of the wife (vector X_i) include rural residence, religion, state, caste and age-group (γ_s , ζ_c and λ_t). The outcomes are years of education, age and height of the husband and the educational, age and height gap between spouses. Higher gaps between spouses have been shown to be relevant risk factors affecting female empowerment (Ackerson et al., 2008; Eswaran and Malhotra, 2011; Erten and Keskin, 2016). We also include measures of controlling behaviour, the incidence of physical, emotional and sexual intimate-partner violence (IPV) and willingness to share decisions about money²⁷. We use both the woman’s and the couples modules of NFHS-3 to retrieve all available measures of quality.²⁸ Female education is also a crucial determinant of marriage quality and marriage payments (Lafortune, 2013; Roy, 2015). However, female education is endogenous to sex ratios and while we do not have a formal way of taking into account the fact that endogenous

²⁷Our approach to measuring IPV follows the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) method employed in DHS surveys Straus et al. (1996). These are self-reported measures where respondents are asked to indicate whether they have been subject to very specific type of behaviours over a specific period (Table 11 presents the description of these variables). We use these measures to construct a single measure of IPV and also use these separately as individual variables.

²⁸The NFHS-3 surveyed only a sample of husbands, and this explains the differences in sample sizes. Moreover, while some variables (e.g. education of the spouse) are available in both modules, others (e.g. husband’s height) are only available in the couples files. Our results are not sensitive to whether we use the couples or the women’s files but to improve precision we report results using only the married women’s sample. Results from the couples files are available upon request.

educational investments may affect matching and bargaining outcomes we provide estimations of (5) with and without controlling for female education (see Panel B of Table 8). Results are presented in Table 8 and 25.

We find that higher sex ratios among women born after the introduction of ultrasound technology decreased women’s marriage quality in several dimensions. In areas with higher sex ratios, women were more likely to marry a husband with fewer education years, be victims of domestic violence and have less decision-making power (Table 8). The coefficients on the spousal height gap (columns 4 and 10 of Table 8) suggest that higher sex ratios widen the height gap between spouses, but this coefficient is not statistically significant. We disaggregated the indicator for intimate-partner violence by types of violence, namely emotional, physical and sexual. We find that the increases in intimate-partner violence are largely due to changes in sexual violence (by 9.2 percentage points). These results are presented in Tables 25 and 24.

Concerning magnitudes, a one standard deviation increase in the sex ratio (0.064) leads to an increase in the self-reported incidence of domestic violence (i.e., any IPV- column 8) after the shock by 4.5 percentage points i.e. an 18% increase in relation to the mean. This is consistent with our findings of section 4 since domestic violence alone represents 44% of total VAW. Women in district-years with more male-biased youth sex ratios are also 5.9 percentages points more likely to face a controlling partner and 8.5 percentages points less likely to be involved in financial decision-making. Overall, these findings show that a marriage-age surplus of men worsens marital outcomes for women. When controlling for female education the magnitudes of the effect sizes decrease (in particular for the education of the spouse) but they remain statistically significant for measures of domestic violence and decision-making. Our findings are broadly in line with Hussam (2016) who uses cluster-level variation in the sex ratio at birth for pre vs post ultrasound cohorts and documents a decline in the quality of marriages for women.²⁹

6 Discussion

Our findings are consistent with a mechanical effect associated with increased maleness in the population on crime, given that men commit more crime. Indeed, we find no significant impact on VAW of the sex ratio at ages 25-34, consistent with age 20-24 being the age at which crime

²⁹Hussam (2016) defines the local marriage market to be defined at the cluster level. However, Indian women often marry outside their natal village (or cluster) (see for example Rosenzweig and Stark (1989)). In the Indian Human Development Survey of 2005, 87.05% of women married men outside the natal village Amaral (2017).

rates peak. However, the stylized fact, for India and elsewhere, is that men commit more crime of all sorts our effect sizes are consistent with a more nuanced effect that is consistent with sex ratios distorting marriage markets. Also, the largest elasticity consistent with a compositional effect alone is 0.5, and the elasticity we estimate is 0.7.

We find support for three non-competing mechanisms. First, differencing between the pre and post ultrasound birth cohorts observed as 20-24-year-olds in the 1991 and 2011 census respectively, we estimate that a one standard deviation increase in the sex ratio leads to a 2 percentage point increase in the probability that men age 20-24 are unmarried, and we refer to a literature on the civilizing effects of marriage to argue that this contributes to violence. Since consensual sex outside marriage remains uncommon and stigmatized in India, it is plausible that an increasing share of unmarried men to raise VAW, 56% of which is on account of rape, molestation, harassment and kidnapping of women.

Second, we find that the self-reported attitudes of men towards violence against women are a function of the sex ratio at birth (which largely persists to adulthood) and, again, we use the plausibly exogenous introduction of ultrasound technology to identify this relationship. A one standard deviation increase in the sex ratio at birth (0.025) is associated with a 0.05 percentage point change in the probability that men agree that wife beating is justified in at least one of five domains. While our results for women are less robust, we find that women’s attitudes have improved and this difference is consistent with a *male backlash* hypothesis (Bobonis et al., 2013). A third mechanism is that the quality of marriages for women is deteriorating, across several measures including, domestic violence (which would explain 44 percent of the total crime rate). Our findings are consistent with (Grosjean and Khattar, 2015).

It is possible that two additional mechanisms explain our findings: i) dowry payments and ii) female labour participation. As to the first, a rise in sex ratios could lead to an increase in dowry prices and this, in turn, would lead to a deterioration of conditions for women- for instance, if dowry payments are lower, women may be subject to increased domestic violence. However, dowry prices appear to be stable since the 1960’s Anukriti et al. (2016b) and we are unaware of evidence linking changes in dowry prices driven by changes in sex ratios (due to marriage squeeze as suggested by Rao (2000)). Second, it is possible that a rise in sex ratios that leads to a more regressive gender norms (as we show) can reduce female labour participation and that this, in turn, can lead to increased intimate-partner violence on account of male backlash ((Bloch and

Rao, 2002; Eswaran and Malhotra, 2011; Amaral et al., 2015; Bhalotra et al., 2016b)). However, in India, female labour participation is very low and has decreased over time Afridi et al. (2016); Field et al. (2016).

7 Conclusion

Our main finding is that the increasing male bias in the sex ratio of 20-24-year-olds has led to increasing violence against women in India. The elasticity is unity, and we estimate that a one standard deviation increase in the youth sex ratio results in an 13 percent increase in VAW. Our results suggest that changes in the youth sex ratio account for as much 21% of the change in VAW. This result is robust to a variety of specification checks.

We present the first evidence that male-biased population sex ratios generate violence against women, although Edlund et al. (2013) provides evidence for China that the same phenomenon generates more generalized violence (their measure is arrests for property and violent crime). We also present novel proof on some of the driving mechanisms, and the first evidence that (self-reported) attitudes towards domestic violence are evolving adversely in response to the rising sex ratio at birth.

Our results contribute to research on violence against women; and also to research on the long-term consequences of rising birth sex ratios. In India, prenatal sex detection and female foeticide started to be widespread enough to have population-level impacts in the mid-1980s, and the trend accelerated in the mid-1990s. These cohorts have now reached adulthood, and our estimates suggest that men face a more competitive marriage market and they have less progressive attitudes towards violence against women. This is important as recent evidence indicates that in spite of improvements in health investment, lower fertility and policies aimed at correcting for son preference, the trend in the sex ratio is not expected to revert (Bongaarts and Guilmoto, 2015; Jayachandran, 2017b; Anukriti, 2014).

From a policy perspective, our results indicate that policies aimed at increasing prevention of violence against women and addressing gender attitudes are a potential avenue for interventions as suggested in Bandiera et al. (2012); Anwar et al. (2016); Amaral et al. (2018).

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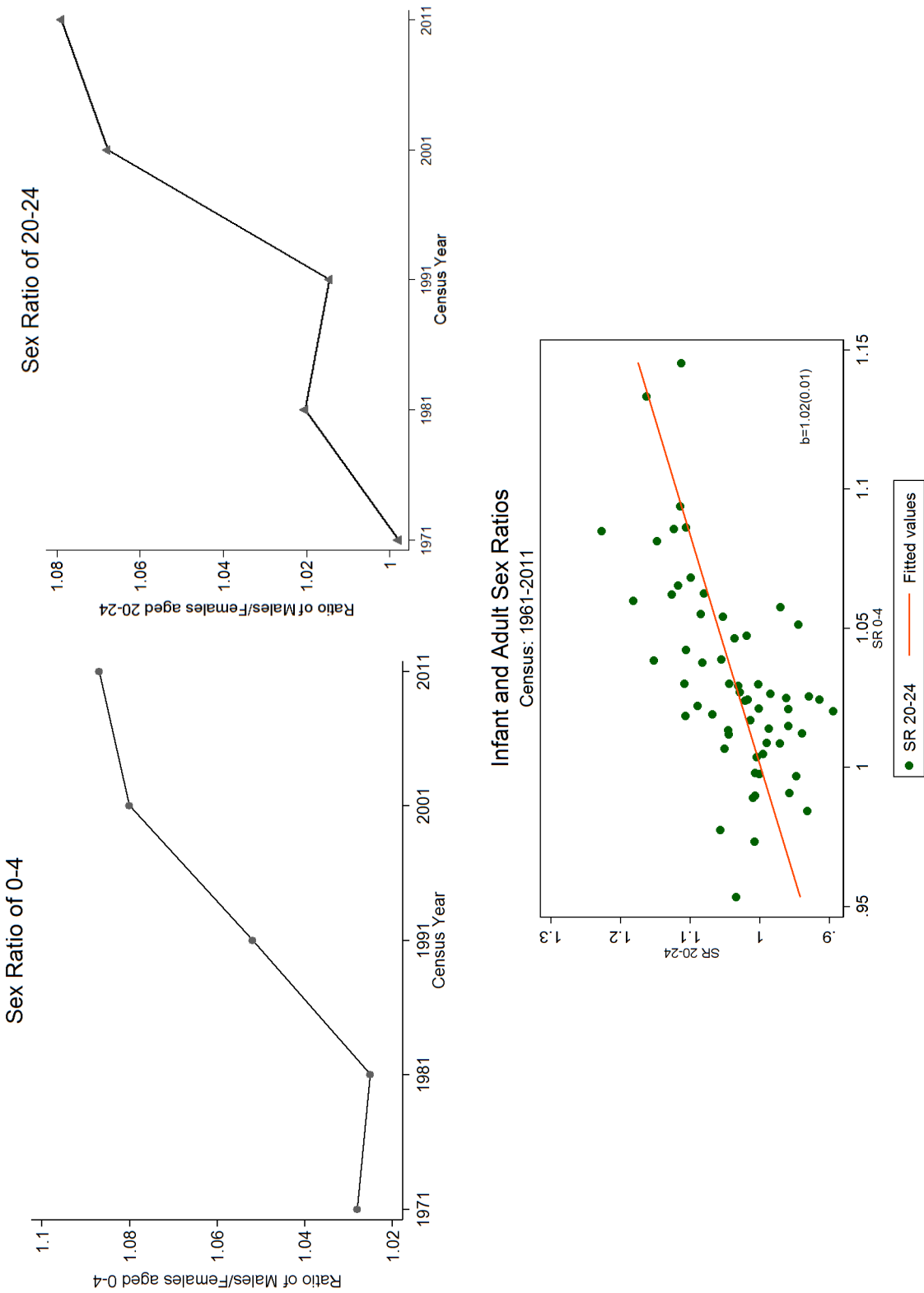
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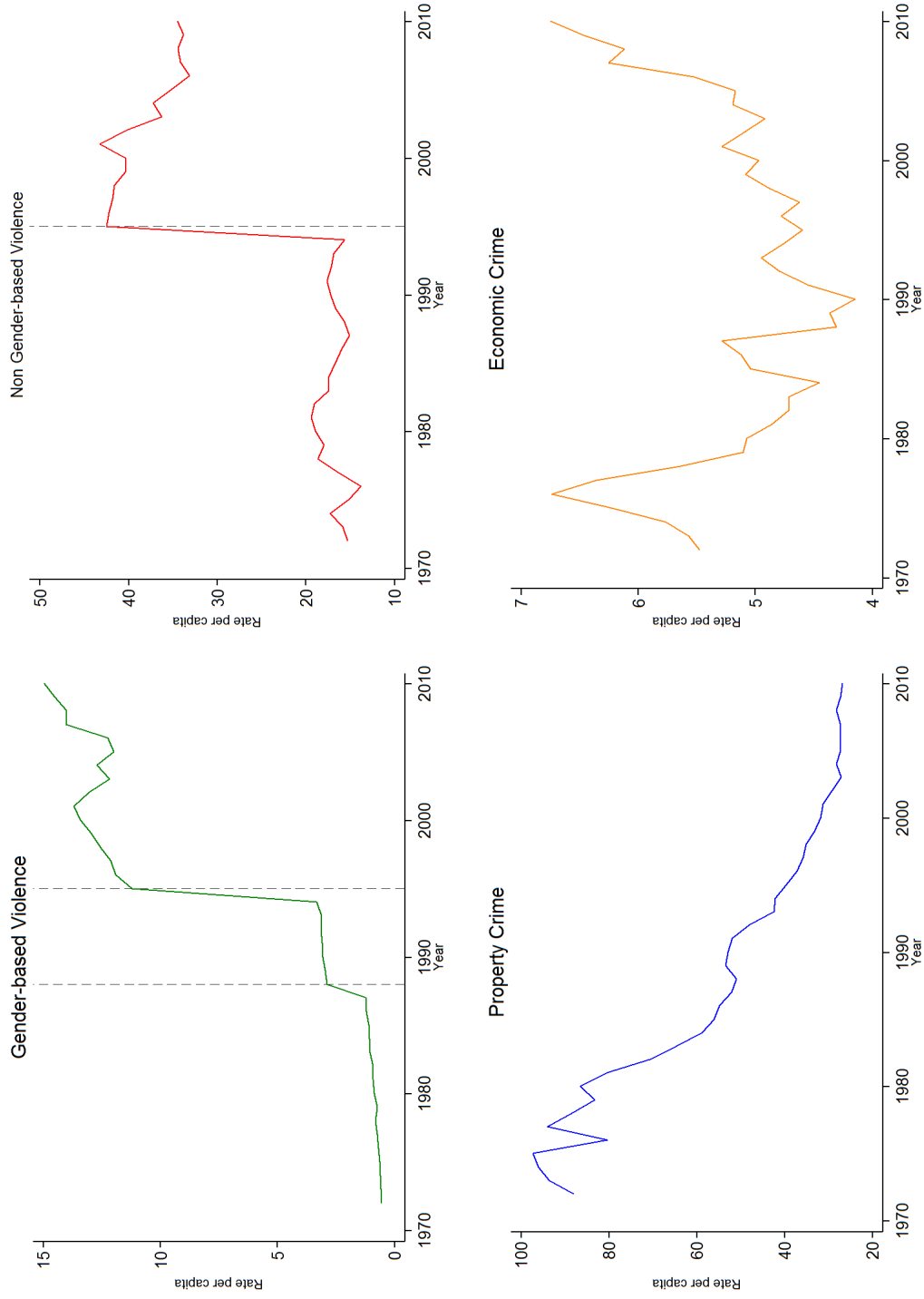
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Figure 1: Trends in Age-specific Sex Ratios



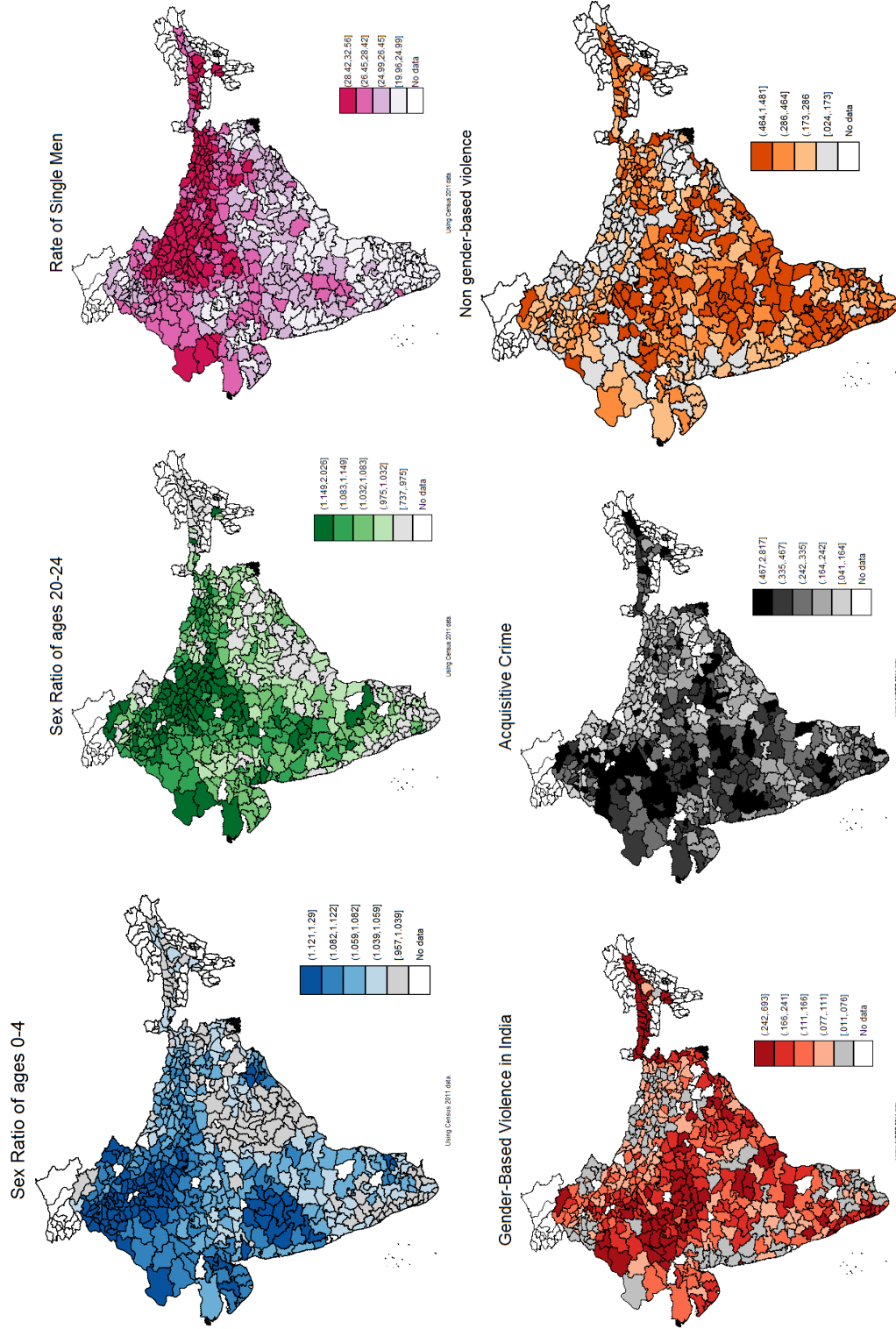
Notes: The top panels show the trend in the average ratio of male to female population of age 0-4 on the left and 20-24 on the right. These trends are obtained using pooled district-level data from Census 1971-2011. The bottom panel shows the linear fit and scatter plot of the ratio of males to females of the same cohort over a 20 year period. This plot uses state-level data from 1961-2011.

Figure 2: Trends in Crime



Notes: Yearly trend in the average crime rate per 100,000 population. Violence against women is the sum of all crimes under the categories of rape (released since 1971), kidnapping and abduction of females (released since 1988), molestation, sexual harassment, cruelty by husband and relatives (all released since 1995). Non-gender based violence is the sum of crimes under riots, murder, dacoity (available since 1971), male kidnappings (released since 1988), arson and hurt (released since 1995). Property crime is the sum of crimes under the categories of burglary, robbery, theft (all available since 1971). Economic crime is the sum of all crime under the categories of criminal breach of trust, cheating (all available since 1971) and counterfeiting (available since 1995). The vertical lines at 1988 and 1995 indicate these points at which the National Crime Records Bureau released additional categories under total violence against women and non-gender based violence. All definitions are also in Table 11 in Appendix.

Figure 3: Distribution across districts in birth and youth sex ratio, crime rates and single men



Notes: Spatial distribution of the main independent and dependent variables. All maps use 2011 data. The sex ratio of 0-4 and 20-24 is the ratio of male to female population of ages 0-4 and 20-24, respectively. The ratio of single men is the ratio of unmarried men to total males and crime rates are per 100,000 population. Acquisitive crime is the sum of property and economic crime. Definitions of all crimes are in Table 11 in Appendix.

Table 1: Crime as a function of the youth sex ratio: Yearly changes estimation

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (1) | (2) | (3) | (1) | (2) | (3) | (1) | (2) | (3) |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Total | | | Against Women | | | Non-Gender Violence | | | Property | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | Economic |
| SR 20-24 | 0.749*** (0.221) | 0.785*** (0.220) | 0.450** (0.228) | 0.863*** (0.241) | 0.877*** (0.241) | 0.767*** (0.231) | 1.770*** (0.278) | 1.871*** (0.279) | 0.557* (0.301) | 0.248 (0.229) | 0.249 (0.228) | 0.341 (0.241) |
| SR 0-4 | -0.216 (0.406) | -0.100 (0.404) | -0.940** (0.460) | -0.373 (0.360) | -0.333 (0.362) | 0.091 (0.351) | -0.460 (0.512) | -0.062 (0.514) | -1.097* (0.566) | -0.002 (0.445) | -0.057 (0.445) | -0.647 (0.465) |
| N | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.817 | 0.819 | 0.855 | 0.920 | 0.920 | 0.945 | 0.791 | 0.797 | 0.854 | 0.858 | 0.858 | 0.894 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State Controls | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| State*Year | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes |

Notes: Coefficients from estimating specification (1). The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are double clustered at the district-level and decade level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 2: Crime as a function of the youth sex ratio: Robustness exercise with neighbouring age-groups

| | Total | Against Women | Non-Gender Violence | Property | Economics |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| SR 20-24 | 0.324 (0.228) | 0.866*** (0.239) | 0.417 (0.305) | 0.195 (0.246) | 0.309 (0.222) |
| SR 0-4 | -0.970** (0.475) | -0.016 (0.366) | -1.118* (0.586) | -0.683 (0.476) | -0.536 (0.437) |
| SR 15-19 | -0.394** (0.196) | -0.283* (0.149) | -0.380 (0.274) | -0.464** (0.198) | -0.216 (0.170) |
| SR 25-34 | 0.492* (0.266) | -0.149 (0.205) | 0.521 (0.333) | 0.572** (0.269) | 0.175 (0.277) |
| N | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.855 | 0.945 | 0.854 | 0.894 | 0.783 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State*Year | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: Coefficients from estimating specification (1) by also including the sex ratio of ages 15-19 and 25-34. The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are double clustered at the district-level and decade level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 3: Crime as a function of sex ratio - Decadal changes in crime against sex ratios at start of the decade

| | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Δ Total | | Δ Against Women | | Δ Non-Gender Violence | | Δ Property | | Δ Economic | |
| SR 20-24 | 0.049 (0.841) | -0.572 (0.911) | 1.997** (0.825) | 1.859** (0.888) | 1.213 (1.132) | -0.548 (1.251) | -0.246 (0.926) | -0.256 (0.992) | -0.784 (0.969) | -0.821 (1.013) |
| SR 0-4 | 1.704 (1.726) | 0.617 (2.111) | 1.400 (1.775) | 0.073 (2.141) | 0.650 (2.369) | 0.431 (2.644) | 1.875 (1.963) | 1.448 (2.289) | 3.736 (2.560) | 1.121 (2.460) |
| N | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 |
| Adj. R-sq.d | 0.186 | 0.318 | 0.578 | 0.662 | 0.403 | 0.563 | 0.161 | 0.261 | 0.040 | 0.312 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State*Year | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |

Notes: This tables uses data for the years 1971,1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. Coefficients from estimating equation (1) but with the dependent variable as the change in crime rates (in logs) across decades. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. Independent variables take the values of the beginning of the decade. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Table 4: Crime as a function of sex ratio - Robustness Exercises

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Pop Growth | Post Gender Quota | Elasticity | Share | Linear Interpolation | Spline | Cubic |
| Panel B: Crime Against Women | | | | | | | |
| SR 20-24 | 0.802*** (0.233) | 0.843*** (0.242) | 0.741* (0.249) | 3.038*** (0.997) | 0.838*** (0.268) | 0.767*** (0.231) | 0.901*** (0.236) |
| SR 0-4 | -0.103 (0.378) | -0.438 (0.365) | 0.041 (0.509) | -0.896 (1.589) | -0.097 (0.400) | 0.091 (0.351) | 0.096 (0.347) |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.945 | 0.921 | 0.945 | 0.940 | 0.945 | 0.945 | 0.945 |
| Panel D: Property Crime | | | | | | | |
| SR 20-24 | 0.270 (0.256) | 0.247 (0.228) | 0.430 (0.503) | 1.439 (1.174) | 0.338 (0.269) | 0.341 (0.241) | 0.400* (0.240) |
| SR 0-4 | -0.721 (0.503) | -0.061 (0.443) | -0.680 (0.652) | -4.273** (2.037) | -0.968* (0.501) | -0.647 (0.465) | -0.645 (0.466) |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.894 | 0.858 | 0.894 | 0.886 | 0.894 | 0.894 | 0.894 |

Notes: Coefficients from estimating specification (1). In column (1) we add population growth as an additional control; column (2) we control for a post gender-political quota reform dummy; in column (3) the sex ratio is logs; in column (4) the sex ratio measure is the share of the males to total population by age-group (in logs); in column (5) the sex ratio is the linear interpolation of the Census sex ratio; in column (6) the sex ratio is obtained as the sex ratio interpolated through linear spline and in column (7) the sex ratio is obtained through cubic interpolation. The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. All regressions include district and year fixed-effects, district linear trends and state-year dummies. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-decade level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Table 5: Crime as a function of the sex ratio: Differencing across crime types

| Dep var: Crime Rate | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| SR 20-24*VAW | 0.524*** (0.142) | 0.546** (0.042) | 0.542* (0.043) | 0.543* (0.044) | 0.545** (0.029) |
| SR 20-24 | -0.102 (0.227) | -0.159 (0.138) | -0.378 (0.125) | -0.346 (0.119) | 0.088 (0.153) |
| Observations | 32,255 | 32,255 | 32,255 | 32,255 | 32,255 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.923 | 0.924 | 0.924 | 0.924 | 0.927 |
| District-Crime FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Crime-Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Trend | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls*VAW | No | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| SR 0-4 | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Gender Literacy Gap | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| State-Year Dummies | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |

Notes: Table reports coefficients from estimating specification (2). The dependent variable is the log of crime rates per capita by crime category, district and year. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. The interaction term VAW is a dummy that takes values 1 if the crime category is a gender-based violence crime or a 0 if it is a property crime category. The crime categories are as defined in Table 11 in Appendix. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. Standard-errors are clustered at the district-decade level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** or *.

Table 6: Sex Ratio and Share of Never-Married Population

| | Share of Unmarried Males | | | Share of Unmarried Females | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | (1) 15-44 | (2) 15-44 | (3) 20-24 | (1) 15-44 | (2) 15-44 | (3) 20-24 |
| SR 15-44 | 0.0786 (0.0604) | | | -0.0413 (0.0621) | | |
| SR 20-24 | | 0.129*** (0.0328) | 0.192*** (0.0601) | | 0.119*** (0.0274) | -0.137*** (0.0484) |
| SR 25-34 | | 0.158*** (0.0406) | 0.0165 (0.0698) | | 0.124*** (0.0318) | 0.0878* (0.0506) |
| SR 35-44 | | -0.108** (0.0427) | 0.116 (0.0765) | | 0.0333 (0.0374) | 0.281*** (0.0618) |
| Mean of the Dep. Var. | 0.465 | | 0.627 | 0.228 | | 0.228 |
| N | 744 | 744 | | 744 | 744 | 744 |
| Ad. R- sq | 0.511 | 0.610 | 0.758 | 0.655 | 0.801 | 0.862 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Census 2011 Dummy | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

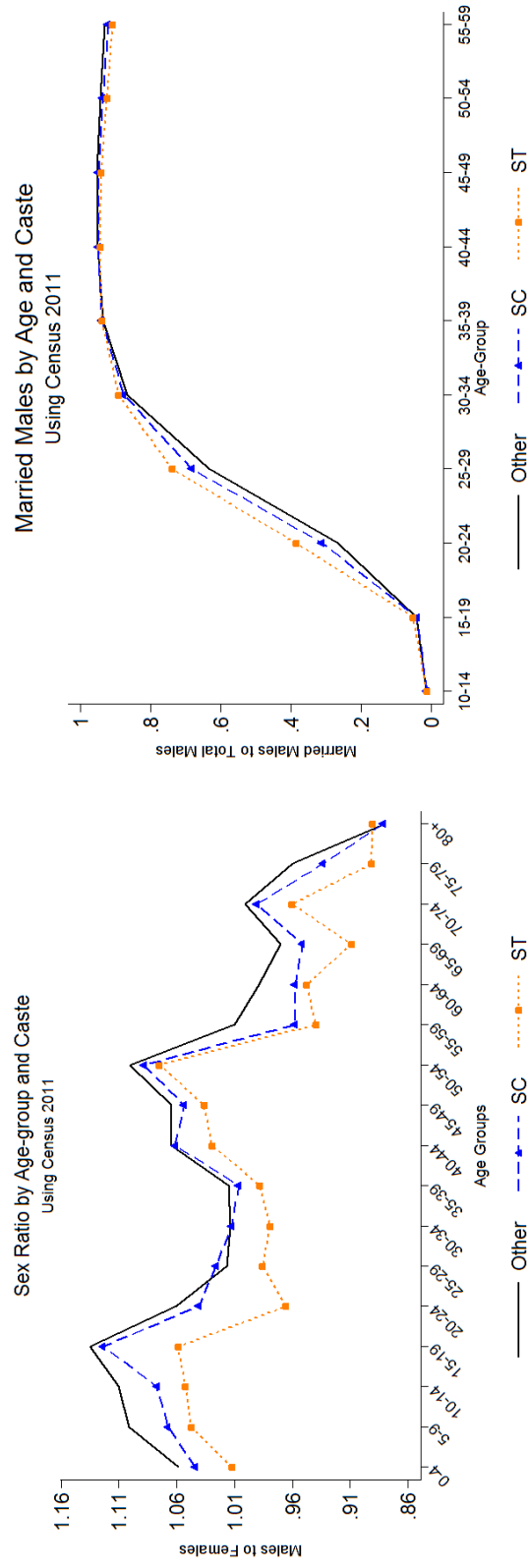
Notes: The dependent variable is the ratio of never married individuals by gender and age over total population of the same age-gender. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. Columns (1) and (2) use the 15-44 age-group sample and columns (3) use the 20-24 age-group sample. We control for district-level rural population, share of SC and ST population, share of literates, literacy gap. In columns (2) and (3) we also control for the sex ratio of those aged 15-19. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 7: Attitudes Towards Intimate Partner Violence

| | Men | | | | Women | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | (1) Index | (2) Index | (3) Binary | (4) Binary | (1) Index | (2) Index | (3) Binary | (4) Binary |
| Post * Child Sex Ratio | 1.883** (0.739) | 2.047** (0.713) | 0.533** (0.216) | 0.562** (0.210) | -0.891 (0.521) | -0.907* (0.477) | -0.416*** (0.118) | -0.431*** (0.119) |
| Post | -1.641* (0.816) | -1.792** (0.813) | -0.465* (0.249) | -0.551** (0.226) | 0.901 (0.529) | 1.001** (0.459) | 0.429*** (0.130) | 0.488*** (0.137) |
| Child Sex Ratio | -1.972 (1.726) | -1.908 (1.671) | -0.590 (0.485) | -0.599 (0.476) | -0.746 (1.210) | -1.041 (1.086) | -0.165 (0.255) | -0.259 (0.238) |
| N | 53,199 | 53,199 | 53,199 | 53,199 | 90,184 | 90,184 | 90,184 | 90,184 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.123 | 0.124 | 0.135 | 0.136 | 0.138 | 0.142 | 0.128 | 0.131 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Birth-Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE* Hindu | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| Birth-Year*Hindu | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| $t_{\delta_1} = \beta_2$ | 5.42 (0.03) | 6.60 (0.02) | 7.01 (0.00) | 10.71 (0.00) | 2.89 (0.11) | 4.23 (0.08) | 11.65 (0.065) | 13.29 (0.00) |

Notes: The dependent variable is an index or binary measure of tolerance towards physical abuse. The dependent variables are obtained from the DHS-2005 questions: “Do you justify wife-beating if...”: i) ...she goes out without telling you?; ii) ...she burns the food?; iii) ... she refuses to have sex?; iv) ...neglects the children? and, v) argues?. Using these responses we create an acceptance index that varies from 0-5 according to each individual’s total domains of acceptance of domestic violence. Alternatively, we also use a binary measure which takes the value 0 if an individual never justifies physical abuse and 1 if he/she justifies it in at least 1 circumstance. The child sex ratio is the ratio of males to females of ages 0-4 measured in the state-birth year of each individual. This is gathered from state-level Census information from 1961-2011. Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if an individual was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. Men and women in the sample are born between 1957 and 1991. All specifications control for individual level controls that include religion dummies, an indicator for rural/urban household, education attainment dummies (no education is the omitted category) and household wealth index. In columns (2) we also include state-Hindu and birth-year*Hindu effects. We also present for each regression the F statistic and p-value for the equality of coefficients $Post * CSR$ and $Post$. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1, 5 and 10% are shown by ***, **, and *.

Figure 4: Sex Ratio and Marriage Rates by Age-Group and Caste



Notes: Using Census 2011 data on sex ratio by age-group and caste. Sex ratio in the ratio of males to females and males marriage rates is the ratio of married males to total male population in the same age-caste group. Caste is defined as male and female population under scheduled caste (SC), scheduled tribe (ST) or others.

Table 8: Marriage quality as a function of sex ratio

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) | (10) | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|--------|--------|-----|
| | Education | Years | Education | Gap | Age | Age | Gap | Joint | Decision | Controlling | Any | IPV | Index | Any | IPV | Height | Height | Gap |
| Panel A: Baseline | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Post*SR | -4.129*** (1.390) | -0.275 (1.038) | -0.461 (1.188) | 0.004 (1.212) | -1.332*** (0.313) | 0.916*** (0.258) | 0.924*** (0.271) | 0.710** (0.311) | -0.571 (1.169) | 0.404 (1.369) | | | | | | | | |
| Post | 4.386*** (1.401) | 0.316 (1.089) | -1.898 (1.207) | 0.089 (1.224) | 1.287*** (0.315) | -0.907*** (0.268) | -0.957*** (0.268) | -0.692** (0.313) | 0.343 (1.217) | -0.827 (1.383) | | | | | | | | |
| SR | 3.049* (1.651) | 0.389 (0.872) | -0.086 (1.316) | -0.436 (1.123) | -0.231 (0.309) | -0.846*** (0.276) | -0.834*** (0.229) | -0.840*** (0.270) | 0.154 (1.870) | 1.040 (2.144) | | | | | | | | |
| $t_{\delta_2} = \beta_4$ | 9.32 (0.00) | 0.08 (0.78) | 0.36 (0.55) | 0.60 (0.57) | 17.40 (0.00) | 12.63 (0.00) | 12.23 (0.00) | 5.67 (0.02) | 0.10 (0.75) | 0.03 (0.61) | | | | | | | | |
| Panel B: Controlling for Female Education | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Post*SR | -1.597** (0.691) | -1.597** (0.691) | -0.693 (1.196) | -0.248 (1.198) | -1.257*** (0.293) | 0.796*** (0.250) | 0.737*** (0.227) | 0.527* (0.300) | 0.302 (1.083) | 0.544 (1.420) | | | | | | | | |
| Post | 1.713** (0.733) | 1.713** (0.733) | -1.652 (1.215) | 0.356 (1.210) | 1.208*** (0.294) | -0.780*** (0.260) | -0.762*** (0.223) | -0.499 (0.308) | -0.524 (1.070) | -0.967 (1.434) | | | | | | | | |
| SR | 1.301 (1.014) | 1.301 (1.014) | 0.075 (1.323) | -0.261 (1.134) | -0.284 (0.325) | -0.796*** (0.288) | -0.724*** (0.199) | -0.754*** (0.272) | -0.337 (1.908) | 0.983 (2.163) | | | | | | | | |
| Controls | 71,443 | 71,443 | 67,614 | 67,614 | 71,154 | 52,779 | 53,077 | 53,077 | 29,854 | 29,854 | | | | | | | | |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | | | | | |
| Age-Group FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | | | | | |
| Caste FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | | | | | |
| $t_{\delta_2} = \beta_4$ | 5.42 (0.03) | 0.08 (0.78) | 0.16 (0.69) | 0.06 (0.804) | 17.65 (0.00) | 9.59 (0.00) | 11.17 (0.00) | 2.86 (0.09) | 0.15 (0.70) | 0.20 (0.66) | | | | | | | | |

Notes: The dependent variables are measures of husband quality or spousal gap (e.g. the difference between husband's and wife's age). Using the sample of married women from DHS-2005, Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. SR is the ratio of males to females in a given state-age-group-caste of the woman. In Panel A we control for women's religion dummies, whether the woman resides in a rural area and in Panel B we also control for women's educational attainment. All regressions include state, age-group and caste dummies. Caste groups are defined as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Other. Age-group dummies are 5-year bins groups starting from 15-19 to 45-49. Joint-decision making is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman has any say in the husband decision over his income and 0 otherwise; controlling is a measure of controlling behaviour that takes values 1 if the husband exhibits any of the following behaviours: the husband is jealous if respondent talks with other men; husband accuses respondent of unfaithfulness; husband does not permit respondent to meet her girlfriends; husband tries to limit respondent's contact with family; husband insists on knowing where respondent is; husband doesn't trust respondent with money. Any IPV and IPV are an index and a dichotomous measure of self-reported incidence of domestic violence as defined in Appendix- Table ???. We also present for each regression the F statistic and p-value for the equality of coefficients $Post * SR$ and Post. (Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 9: Intimate-partner violence as a function of sex ratio

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | Emotional Index | Physical Index | Sexual Index | Emotional Binary | Physical Binary | Sexual Binary |
| Panel A: Baseline | | | | | | |
| Post*SR | 0.175 (0.106) | 0.629** (0.233) | 0.242*** (0.071) | 0.561* (0.318) | 0.497 (0.371) | 1.438*** (0.355) |
| Post | -0.179* (0.102) | -0.665** (0.234) | -0.242*** (0.069) | -0.575* (0.323) | -0.484 (0.372) | -1.438*** (0.346) |
| SR | -0.126* (0.068) | -0.594*** (0.149) | -0.258* (0.124) | -0.562** (0.251) | -0.565** (0.244) | -1.210*** (0.322) |
| Panel B: Controlling for Female Education | | | | | | |
| Post*SR | 0.133 (0.101) | 0.472** (0.205) | 0.225*** (0.064) | 0.412 (0.306) | 0.295 (0.368) | 1.328*** (0.332) |
| Post | -0.135 (0.096) | -0.501** (0.208) | -0.224*** (0.063) | -0.419 (0.308) | -0.272 (0.376) | -1.325*** (0.325) |
| SR | -0.101 (0.063) | -0.502*** (0.139) | -0.248* (0.120) | -0.503** (0.236) | -0.464* (0.256) | -1.167*** (0.315) |
| N | 53,074 | 53,075 | 53,072 | 53,074 | 53,075 | 53,072 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Age-Group FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Caste FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The dependent variables are measures of intimate-partner violence by domains: emotional, physical and sexual. Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. SR is the ratio of males to females in a given state-age-group-caste. For each measure we present an index and a dichotomous measure of self-reported incidence of domestic violence as defined in Appendix Table 11. Sample of married women of DHS-2005. In Panel A we control for women's religion dummies, whether the woman resides in a rural area and in Panel B we also control for women's educational attainment. All regressions include state, age-group and caste dummies. Caste groups are defined as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Other. Age-group dummies are 5-year bins groups starting from 15-19 to 45-49. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Online Appendix to:
**“Population Sex Ratios and Violence against Women:
The Long Run Consequences of Sex Selection in India”**

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Appendix

Table 10: Missing Brides Index

| Survey | a_m | a_w | β | α | σ | Index |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|-------|
| 1992-1993 | 22.704 | 17.180 | 3.446 | 5.189 | 0.899 | 0.985 |
| 1998-1999 | 23.395 | 17.402 | 3.058 | 4.796 | 0.899 | 1.006 |
| d’Albis and de la Croix-2000 | 24.770 | 20.200 | 2.640 | 6.580 | 0.921 | 1.043 |
| 2004-2005 | 23.032 | 17.935 | 2.717 | 4.574 | 0.899 | 1.051 |

Notes: This table presents estimates of the Missing Brides Index developed by [d’Albis and De La Croix \(2012\)](#). We use the measure of fertility rate as in [d’Albis and De La Croix \(2012\)](#) for the years of the survey round (1992-1993; 1998-1999 and 2004-2005). This variable is collected using data from the U.N. population statistics. We created each of the components of the index in [d’Albis and De La Croix \(2012\)](#) using the mean variables of each round of National Family Health Surveys (rounds 1,2,3 for the years 1992-1993, 1998-1999 and 2005-2006, respectively). The index uses information on the average age at marriage for men and women (a_m and a_w); total fertility rate corrected for infant mortality of under five children (β); and age of childbearing (α , which is the mean age at childbearing minus the age at marriage and; the sex ratio (females to males) of pre-marriageable age (i.e. of age 10-14) cohorts (σ).

Table 11: Variable Definitions

| Measure | Description |
|--|---|
| Panel A: Violence against women and other crime | |
| Crimes against Women | Includes the incidents registered under rape (released since 1971), kidnapping and abduction of females (released since 1988), molestation, sexual harassment, cruelty by husband and relatives (all released since 1995) |
| Non-gender based Violence | Includes the incidents registered underunder riots, murder, dacoity (available since 1971), male kidnappings (released since 1988), arson and hurt (released since 1995). |
| Property | Includes the incidents registered under under the categories of burglary, robbery, theft (all available since 1971). |
| Economic | Includes the incidents registered under under the categories of criminal breach of trust, cheating (all available since 1971) and counterfeiting (available since 1995). |
| Panel B: Surveyed intimate partner violence | |
| Humiliation | Spouse ever humiliated her |
| Threat | Spouse ever threatened her with harm |
| Insult | Spouse ever insult or make feel bad |
| Push | Spouse ever pushed, shook or threw something |
| Slap | Spouse ever slapped |
| Punch | Spouse ever punched with fist or something harmful |
| Kick | Spouse ever kicked or dragged |
| Strangle | Spouse ever tried to strangle or burn |
| Threat with weapon | Spouse ever threatened with knife/gun or other weapon |
| Pull Hair | Spouse ever twisted her arm or pulled her hair |
| Forced sex | Spouse ever physically forced sex when not wanted |
| Forced sexual Acts | Spouse ever forced other sexual acts when not wanted |

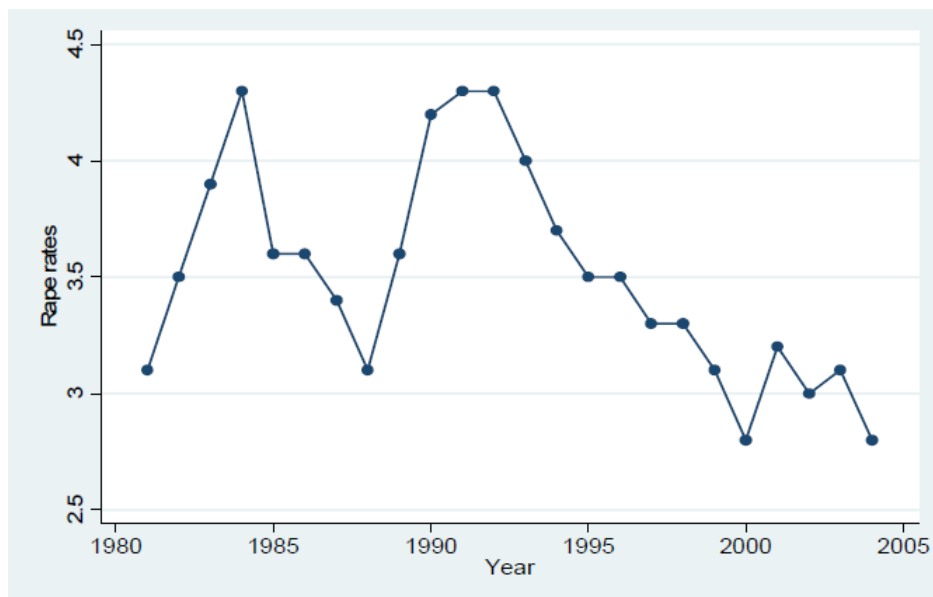
Notes: Panel A presents the definitions of crime rates variables from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Crime rates is defined as total incidents per 100, 000 population. Crime definitions are from the Indian Penal Code. Panel B present definitions of self-reported measures of intimate-partner violence from the National Family Health Survey, wave III (NFHS). The measures come from DHS questions of the following form: "Did your (last) (husband/partner) ever do any of the following things to you..." for each of the measures outlined above. Using these responses we create variables for emotional, physical and sexual violence as an index (i.e. the sum of responses by domain) and as dummy variables that take values 1 if the respondent was a victim of any of the forms of abuse listed. We also construct an aggregate measure formed of all responses listed in the table.

Table 12: Summary Statistics - By Age-Gender-Crime Type Offender Profile

| Age-group Crime Categories | < 18 Years | Between 18-30 Years | Between 30-45 Years | Between 45-60 Years | > 60 Years | Total (by gender) |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Panel A: Male Offenders | | | | | | |
| Violence against Women | 0.841% | 41.826% | 28.700% | 11.850% | 1.968% | 85.186% |
| Non-Gender based Crime | 1.088% | 43.256% | 34.136% | 14.836% | 1.712% | 95.028% |
| Total IPC Crime | 1.063% | 43.110% | 33.579% | 14.530% | 1.738% | 94.019% |
| Panel B: Female Offenders | | | | | | |
| Violence against Women | 0.082% | 4.583% | 5.309% | 4.018% | 0.824% | 14.814% |
| Non-Gender based Crime | 0.047% | 1.879% | 2.066% | 0.866% | 0.114% | 4.972% |
| Total IPC Crime | 0.051% | 2.156% | 2.398% | 1.189% | 0.187% | 5.981% |

Notes: Based on the National Crime Records Bureau Report of 2011. Each cell represents the share of **arrested** offenders by age-group and crime type for males (Panel A) and females (Panel B). Violence against women comprises all Indian Penal Code (IPC) crime under the categories of rape, kidnapping and abduction of women and girls, dowry deaths, molestation, sexual harassment, cruelty by husband and relatives, importation of women and girls. Non-gender based crime comprises arrests for all crimes under acquisitive crime and non-gender based violence as defined in 11. The age-group decomposition shown is the decomposition available from the NCRB reports. For example 94.019% of total IPC crime is committed by males whereas the remaining (5.981%) is committed by females. When looking at VAW, 85.186% is committed by males and 14.814% is committed by females against other females. When looking by age-group, 46.409% of VAW is committed by those age between 18-30, with men in this age-group committing 41.826% and females 4.583%.

Figure 5: Trend in Rape in China



Notes: Figure from Edlund et.al, (2013). Rape rates are defined as counts of rapes registered by the police per 10,000 population. This figure shows a recent trend decline in the rape rate in China which contrast to the case of India.

Table 13: Summary Statistics- Share of unmarried individuals

| | | Census | | NFHS-2005 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Mean | SD | Mean | SD |
| Men | Age-group: 15-44 | 0.465 | 0.053 | 0.507 | 0.499 |
| | Age-group: 15-19 | 0.924 | 0.080 | 0.980 | 0.001 |
| | Age-group: 20-24 | 0.627 | 0.171 | 0.756 | 0.004 |
| | Age-group: 25-34 | 0.188 | 0.097 | 0.384 | 0.005 |
| | Age-group: 35-44 | 0.035 | 0.018 | 0.086 | 0.002 |
| Women | | | | | |
| Age-group: 15-44 | | 0.228 | 0.078 | 0.246 | 0.430 |
| Age-group: 15-19 | | 0.712 | 0.175 | 0.776 | 0.003 |
| Age-group: 20-24 | | 0.228 | 0.138 | 0.309 | 0.003 |
| Age-group: 25-34 | | 0.043 | 0.036 | 0.053 | 0.001 |
| Age-group: 35-44 | | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.011 | 0.000 |

Notes: The top panel shows rates of unmarried men by different age-groups and the bottom panel the rates for women. The first 2 columns use district-level Census data from 1991 and 2001. Columns 3 and 4 use data from all men and women surveyed in the NFHS-III across the 16 major states of India.

Table 14: Summary Statistics- Crime and Sex Ratios Data

| Panel A: Crime Rates (per 100,000) | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Mean | SD | Δ 1972-2010 | Δ 1995-2010 |
| Total Crime | 90.430 | 58.586 | -0.241 | -0.152 |
| Total against Women | | | | |
| Rape | 6.233 | 8.325 | 26.15 | 0.336 |
| Domestic Violence* | 1.361 | 1.424 | 2.007 | 0.0382 |
| Molestation* | 5.149 | 4.875 | | 0.845 |
| Sexual Harassment* | 3.926 | 3.818 | | -0.0230 |
| Kidnapping of Females* | 0.784 | 1.465 | | 0.575 |
| | 1.497 | 1.616 | | 0.0973 |
| Total non-gender based | | | | |
| Murder | 25.61 | 23.83 | 1.259 | -0.189 |
| Dacoity | 3.319 | 2.278 | -0.251 | -0.372 |
| Riots | 1.016 | 1.685 | -0.865 | -0.557 |
| Kidnapping of Males* | 9.689 | 10.33 | -0.525 | -0.532 |
| Arson* | 1.908 | 1.957 | | -0.228 |
| Hurt* | 1.059 | 1.112 | | -0.486 |
| | 26.79 | 26.25 | | -0.0234 |
| Property | | | | |
| Robbery | 53.37 | 48.10 | -0.695 | -0.323 |
| Thefts | 2.610 | 3.064 | -0.561 | -0.291 |
| Burglary | 33.41 | 33.27 | -0.657 | -0.247 |
| | 17.35 | 15.48 | -0.776 | -0.470 |
| | 5.225 | 4.641 | 0.232 | 0.469 |
| Economic | | | | |
| Counterfeiting | 1.993 | 2.197 | | -0.257 |
| Cheating | 3.098 | 3.629 | 1.756 | 0.860 |
| Criminal Breach of Trust | 0.134 | 0.718 | -0.694 | -0.255 |
| Panel B: Sex Ratio | | | | |
| SR 0-4 | 1.054 | 0.0504 | 0.058 | 0.021 |
| SR 10-19 | 1.136 | 0.102 | -0.024 | 0.191 |
| SR 20-24 | 1.033 | 0.111 | 0.087 | 0.300 |
| SR 25-34 | 1.011 | 0.0985 | 0.015 | 0.265 |
| SR 35-44 | 1.119 | 0.629 | | 0.187 |
| SR45-64 | 1.097 | 0.684 | | 0.235 |

Notes: Panel A shows the crime rates per 100,000 population. Crime data comes from yearly publications of the NCRB. Panel B shows sex ratios using Census Publications of 1972 to 2010 for age-groups 0-4, 10-19, 15-19, 20-24 and 25-34; and using Census publications from 1991 to 2011 for the age-groups 35-44 and 45-64. * denote crime categories that are not available since 1972. Δ stands for total growth rate over the designated period. Crime definitions are provided in Table 11 in Appendix.

Crime Reporting in India, the NCRB database and the construction of compatible districts across years

We use police reported data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of India to measure violence against women and other forms of crime. The NCRB publishes information at the crime-area level for cognizable crimes prescribed under the Indian Penal Code. This is the major source of administrative data on law and order in India. The data released is based on information gathered from two processes. First, once an incident occurs and is reported, the police are required to register a First Information Report (FIR)- see also [Iyer et al. \(2012\)](#) for an overview. The aggregated information from these reports is then gathered by each police station and reported to the NCRB. The information at the crime area level is what we collect from on-line publications.

In order to match these with districts at any given year-state we use the following process. In order to match a given crime area to its district we used general information from the web and government websites to construct an auxiliary dataset to aggregate crime-area units to its districts. For most cases crime areas are large metropolitan cities or rural areas. For example, Kochwe is a city in the district of Ernakulam in Kerala (<http://ernakulam.nic.in/history.htm>). Thus, crime area statistics of Kochwe are aggregated to the district-level statistics of Ernakulam. This process was cross-checked twice in order to remove any potential errors. It is worth noting that it is not possible to conduct the analysis at a lower administrative level than the district as data reporting is not consistent over time and space for lower administrative areas.

The division of the Indian administrative boundaries for districts and states varies considerably over the period of our sample. In order to compare the same geographic unit over time we aggregate the information to each district boundary of 1971. This process was done via the database constructed by [Kumar and Somanathan \(2009\)](#) and on our own data construction based on publicly available histories of each district. In 1971, there were 306 districts at the in our sample of the 16 major states of India. Our tracking process allows us to track about 84% of the districts since 1971 ¹.

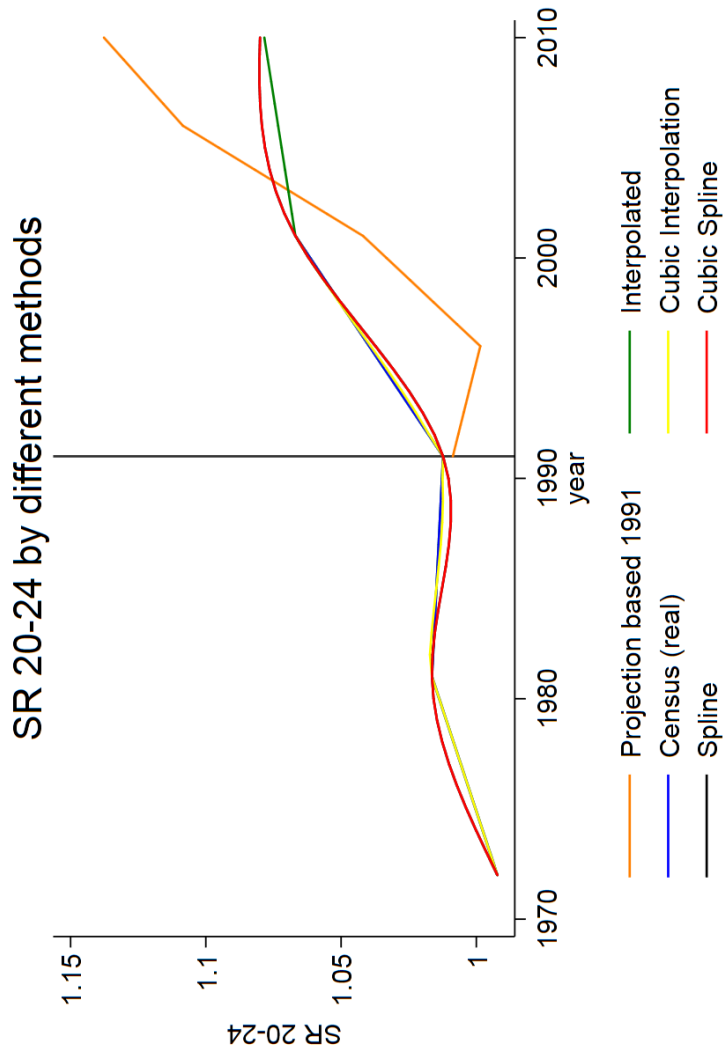
¹However, our final sample of districts differs from the sample had these splits not occurred. Our sample has higher crime rates, higher sex ratios, less rural population and is less gender equal (see Table 1 of this Appendix.) The states included in the sample are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal. The newly created states of Telangana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal are merged with their pre-2001 state boundary definitions.

Table 15: Balance Test

| | Not-Traceable | | Traceable | | Difference | SD |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|
| | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | | |
| Violence against Women | 10.88 | 7.369 | 14.41 | 8.766 | -3.529*** | (0.747) |
| Non-gender based violence | 39.61 | 30.98 | 43.58 | 29.26 | -3.978 | (2.773) |
| Property | 27.65 | 34.21 | 34.03 | 24.34 | -6.371** | (2.724) |
| Economic | 4.824 | 5.560 | 5.470 | 5.135 | -0.646 | (0.492) |
| Total | 82.96 | 62.10 | 97.49 | 53.37 | -14.524*** | (5.323) |
| Scheduled Caste (%) | 16.14 | 8.182 | 17.04 | 7.033 | -0.894 | (0.701) |
| Scheduled Tribe (%) | 10.74 | 18.14 | 9.901 | 15.65 | 0.838 | (1.557) |
| Rural Population (%) | 79.90 | 16.60 | 76.27 | 15.21 | 3.637** | (1.465) |
| Literacy Rate | 52.67 | 12.98 | 53.50 | 10.25 | -0.838 | (1.074) |
| Gender gap in Literacy | 11.81 | 0.06 | 12.27 | 0.04 | -0.455*** | (0.070) |
| SR 0-4 | 1.074 | 0.0676 | 1.079 | 0.0591 | -0.006 | (0.006) |
| SR 10-19 | 1.126 | 0.0903 | 1.143 | 0.0930 | -0.017** | (0.008) |
| SR 20-24 | 1.039 | 0.127 | 1.073 | 0.111 | -0.035*** | (0.011) |
| SR 25-34 | 0.985 | 0.0900 | 0.998 | 0.0767 | -0.013* | (0.008) |
| SR 35-44 | 1.083 | 0.0921 | 1.094 | 0.0843 | -0.012 | (0.008) |
| SR 45-64 | 1.070 | 0.0885 | 1.063 | 0.0733 | 0.007 | (0.007) |

Notes: Difference in means between districts traceable and not traceable across 1971, 1981 and 1991 and 2001 . Using data from the 2001 Census. All variable definitions are as defined in Table 1.

Figure 6: Decadal Census sex ratio 20-24: Interpolation Alternatives



Notes: Trend in the sex ratio of 20-24 age group by method: i) projection based on 1991 Census and following the method of Edlund et al, 2013; ii) spline; iii) linear interpolation; iv) cubic interpolation and v) cubic spline.

Table 16: Individual Crime Regressions

| | Total | | Against Women | | Non-Gender Violence | | Property | | Economic | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) |
| SR 20-24 | 0.826** (0.333) | 0.653** (0.315) | 0.932** (0.392) | 1.024*** (0.352) | 1.920*** (0.406) | 0.774* (0.432) | 0.209 (0.335) | 0.549 (0.341) | 0.267 (0.324) | 0.469 (0.321) |
| SR 0-4 | -0.371 (0.575) | -1.448** (0.692) | -0.538 (0.518) | -0.477 (0.484) | -0.337 (0.725) | -1.578* (0.866) | -0.331 (0.620) | -1.118* (0.671) | 0.697 (0.564) | -0.826 (0.651) |
| SR 10-19 | -0.220 (0.370) | 0.006 (0.369) | 0.811** (0.363) | 0.343 (0.369) | -0.467 (0.484) | 0.321 (0.526) | -0.138 (0.410) | -0.128 (0.392) | 0.037 (0.357) | 0.209 (0.339) |
| SR 15-19 | -0.503* (0.267) | -0.318 (0.332) | 0.148 (0.241) | -0.171 (0.262) | -0.476 (0.387) | -0.232 (0.469) | -0.491* (0.279) | -0.377 (0.330) | -0.518** (0.231) | -0.231 (0.270) |
| SR 25-34 | 0.913*** (0.337) | 0.449 (0.274) | 0.699* (0.396) | 1.019*** (0.387) | 0.584 (0.405) | 0.989** (0.388) | 0.178 (0.398) | 0.447 (0.385) | 1.458*** (0.450) | 0.930** (0.461) |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State Controls | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State*Year | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |

Notes: Each cell is a coefficient and standard-error from a separate regression. The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Table 17: Showing all controls in Table 1

| | Total | Against Women | Non-gender Based | Property | Economic |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| SR 20-24 | 0.062 (0.329) | 0.913** (0.398) | 0.864* (0.475) | 0.195 (0.337) | 0.301 (0.315) |
| SR 0-4 | 1.423** (0.651) | -0.418 (0.540) | 2.166** (0.854) | -0.305 (0.623) | 0.737 (0.574) |
| % SC | 0.034*** (0.012) | 0.005 (0.016) | 0.066*** (0.014) | 0.007 (0.015) | 0.005 (0.011) |
| %ST | 0.028*** (0.009) | 0.006 (0.010) | 0.040*** (0.010) | 0.012 (0.008) | 0.011 (0.007) |
| %Rural | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.002 (0.005) | -0.008 (0.006) | 0.011** (0.005) | 0.008 (0.005) |
| Literacy | 0.010 (0.007) | -0.007 (0.006) | 0.023*** (0.008) | -0.005 (0.006) | 0.003 (0.006) |
| Gender Gap in Literacy | 0.019 (0.012) | 0.043** (0.017) | -0.024 (0.015) | 0.026 (0.022) | 0.004 (0.017) |
| Annual Rainfall (log of) | -0.042** (0.019) | -0.035** (0.014) | -0.018 (0.026) | -0.053*** (0.016) | -0.037** (0.016) |
| Income p.c. | 0.173*** (0.033) | 0.060* (0.033) | 0.124*** (0.042) | 0.005 (0.033) | 0.112*** (0.030) |
| Police Strength | 1.129*** (0.076) | 0.128*** (0.041) | 1.213*** (0.092) | 0.232*** (0.043) | 0.112*** (0.037) |
| Election Year | -0.013* (0.007) | -0.000 (0.007) | -0.040*** (0.009) | 0.003 (0.006) | -0.022*** (0.007) |
| N | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.291 | 0.908 | 0.416 | 0.758 | 0.430 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: Coefficients as in Table 1. The dependent variable is the log of crime rates per capita. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. We always control for district specific effects and year dummies in addition to controlling for rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs) and, a dummy for state election years, state police per capita and state GDP per capita. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, **, or *.

Table 18: Replication of (Edlund et al., 2013)

| | (1) | (2) | Total | | Against Women | | Non-Gender Violence | | Property | | Economic | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------|-----|
| | | | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) |
| SR 10-19 | -0.083 (0.396) | (0.347) -0.275 | -0.061 (0.574) | 0.226 (0.491) | -0.023 (0.614) | -0.514 (0.497) | -0.159 (0.437) | 0.100 (0.439) | -0.757 (0.652) | 0.444 (0.544) | | |
| SR 20-24 | 0.637 (0.557) | (0.486) -0.178 | 1.801** (0.736) | 0.802 (0.653) | 1.605* (0.878) | -1.025 (0.870) | -0.028 (0.502) | -0.181 (0.526) | 1.486* (0.810) | 0.976 (0.772) | | |
| SR 25-34 | -1.008 (0.677) | (0.581) -0.102 | -1.516 (0.993) | -0.714 (0.816) | -0.916 (1.047) | -0.087 (0.896) | -0.959 (0.667) | -0.535 (0.652) | -2.754*** (1.043) | -0.724 (0.819) | | |
| SR 35-44 | -1.211 (0.798) | (0.773) 0.488 | -0.619 (1.088) | -0.318 (1.083) | -0.125 (1.211) | 1.185 (1.052) | -0.905 (0.800) | -1.121 (0.889) | -1.539 (1.089) | -0.432 (1.154) | | |
| SR 45-64 | 1.486 (1.030) | (0.901) | 0.317 (1.293) | 0.017 (1.244) | -0.510 (1.399) | 0.354 (1.181) | 1.825* (1.027) | 1.580* (0.952) | 3.071** (1.285) | -0.209 (1.119) | | |
| N | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | | |
| Adj. R-sq | 0.536 | 0.652 | 0.842 | 0.886 | 0.632 | 0.760 | 0.653 | 0.701 | 0.426 | 0.499 | | |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| State Controls | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | | |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| State*Year | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | | |

Notes: Coefficients from estimating specification (1) with additional age-specific sex ratios (10-19, 25-34, 35-44 and 45-64) following (Edlund et al., 2013). SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. Because age-specific population data from ages 35 onwards are only available since the Census of 1991 this Tables uses data from 1991 onwards only. The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 19: Additional Robustness Checks

| | Total | | Against Women | | Non-Gender Violence | | Property | | Economic | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | from Table 1 | (1) | (2) | from Table 1 | (1) | (2) | from Table 1 | (1) | (2) | from Table 1 | (1) | (2) | from Table 1 |
| SR 20-24 | 0.758*** (0.220) | 0.749*** (0.221) | 0.450** (0.228) | 0.863*** (0.244) | 0.863*** (0.241) | 0.767*** (0.231) | 1.768*** (0.279) | 1.770*** (0.278) | 0.557* (0.301) | 0.254 (0.228) | 0.248 (0.229) | 0.341 (0.241) | 0.281 (0.213) | 0.264 (0.213) | 0.342 (0.226) |
| SR 0-4 | -0.207 (0.403) | -0.216 (0.406) | -0.940** (0.460) | -0.452 (0.370) | -0.373 (0.360) | 0.091 (0.351) | -0.508 (0.508) | -0.460 (0.512) | -1.097* (0.566) | -0.010 (0.444) | -0.002 (0.445) | -0.647 (0.465) | 0.878** (0.390) | 0.829** (0.396) | -0.504 (0.430) |
| N | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.817 | 0.817 | 0.855 | 0.920 | 0.920 | 0.945 | 0.789 | 0.791 | 0.854 | 0.857 | 0.858 | 0.894 | 0.725 | 0.725 | 0.783 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Gender Lit. Gap | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| State × Year | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |

Notes: Coefficients from estimating specification (1) where in columns (1) we do not include any control, in columns (2) we include as set of controls the share of rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs), election year dummy and state police per capita and GDP per capita as well as gender literacy gap. In columns (3) we present the most parsimonious regression as show in Baseline from Table ???. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-decade-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 20: Addressing measurement error concerns

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Total | Women | Non-Gender | Property | Economics |
| Panel A: Levels | | | | | |
| SR 20-24 | 1.058*** (0.390) | 0.916** (0.448) | 1.860*** (0.464) | 0.427 (0.387) | 0.038 (0.376) |
| SR 0-4 | 1.015* (0.560) | 0.211 (0.616) | 0.522 (0.681) | 1.020* (0.598) | 0.526 (0.657) |
| Observations | 1,290 | 1,290 | 1,290 | 1,290 | 1,290 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.688 | 0.936 | 0.778 | 0.823 | 0.596 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Linear Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Panel B: First- Differences | | | | | |
| SR 20-24 | 0.406 (0.323) | 1.019*** (0.327) | 1.274*** (0.425) | -0.012 (0.347) | -0.189 (0.336) |
| SR 0-4 | 0.250 (0.602) | 0.347 (0.658) | -0.206 (0.723) | 0.571 (0.677) | 0.658 (0.758) |
| N | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.318 | 0.661 | 0.563 | 0.262 | 0.311 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: This tables uses data for the years 1971,1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. Coefficients from estimating equation (1) but with the dependent variable in levels in Panel A and in first-differences in Panel B. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females and is measured in levels in Panel A and in first-differences in Panel B. Independent variables are also defined in levels or first-differences, respectively in Panel A and B. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Table 21: NFHS III-Summary Statistics: Attitudes towards Intimate Partner Violence

| | Men | | | Women | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----|-----|
| | Mean | SD | Min | Max | Mean | SD | Min | Max |
| Acceptance Index | 0.943 | 1.390 | 0 | 5 | 1.147 | 1.629 | 0 | 5 |
| Acceptance Binary | 0.403 | 0.490 | 0 | 1 | 0.422 | 0.494 | 0 | 1 |
| Acceptance by Domain: | | | | | | | | |
| Movement | 0.226 | 0.418 | 0 | 1 | 0.257 | 0.437 | 0 | 1 |
| Children | 0.289 | 0.453 | 0 | 1 | 0.314 | 0.464 | 0 | 1 |
| Argues | 0.243 | 0.429 | 0 | 1 | 0.269 | 0.444 | 0 | 1 |
| Sex | 0.0722 | 0.259 | 0 | 1 | 0.128 | 0.334 | 0 | 1 |
| Food | 0.113 | 0.317 | 0 | 1 | 0.179 | 0.384 | 0 | 1 |
| Controls: | | | | | | | | |
| No Education | 0.148 | 0.355 | 0 | 1 | 0.347 | 0.476 | 0 | 1 |
| Primary Education | 0.154 | 0.361 | 0 | 1 | 0.143 | 0.350 | 0 | 1 |
| Secondary Education | 0.544 | 0.498 | 0 | 1 | 0.407 | 0.491 | 0 | 1 |
| Higher Education | 0.154 | 0.361 | 0 | 1 | 0.103 | 0.304 | 0 | 1 |
| Hindu | 0.807 | 0.395 | 0 | 1 | 0.799 | 0.401 | 0 | 1 |
| Muslim | 0.133 | 0.340 | 0 | 1 | 0.133 | 0.340 | 0 | 1 |
| Christian | 0.0220 | 0.147 | 0 | 1 | 0.0223 | 0.148 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 0.0374 | 0.190 | 0 | 1 | 0.0417 | 0.200 | 0 | 1 |
| Rural | 0.480 | 0.500 | 0 | 1 | 0.549 | 0.498 | 0 | 1 |
| Household Size | 5.902 | 3.082 | 1 | 35 | 6.055 | 3.059 | 1 | 35 |
| Wealth Index | 2.305 | 0.848 | 1 | 3 | 2.250 | 0.871 | 1 | 3 |
| Age Gap at First Marriage* | 22.583 | 4.651 | 1 | 48 | 17.567 | 3.616 | 2 | 44 |
| N | 53,240 | | | 90,184 | | | | |

Notes: Using the sample of men and women born between 1957 and 1991 across the major 17 Indian states. Variables acceptance index and binary are obtained from the DHS questions: “*Do you justify wife-beating if...?*”: i) ... *goes out without telling you?*; ii) ... *burns the food?*; iii) ... *refuses to have sex?*; iv) ... *neglects the children?* and, v) *argues?*. Acceptance index is a measure that varies from 0-5 according to each response of total domains of acceptance of domestic violence. The binary measure takes values 0 if the respondent never justifies physical abuse and 1 if justifies in at least 1 circumstance. The remaining variables are used as controls in specification (3). All data comes from NFHS-III. *: This information uses only the sample of married individuals (N=32,681 for men and N=71,929 for women).

Table 22: NFHS III-Summary Statistics: Married women Sample

| | (1) Mean | (2) SD | (3) Min | (4) Max |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Education Years | 7.122 | 5.147 | 0 | 24 |
| Education Gap | 5.443 | 4.494 | -7 | 21 |
| Height | 164.7 | 6.448 | 106.4 | 196.2 |
| Height Gap | 12.61 | 7.591 | -50.50 | 58.90 |
| Age | 31.61 | 8.014 | 15 | 49 |
| Age Gap | 5.481 | 4.054 | -14 | 32 |
| Join-decision | 0.749 | 0.433 | 0 | 1 |
| Controlling | 0.318 | 0.466 | 0 | 1 |
| Any IPV | 0.250 | 0.433 | 0 | 1 |
| Any IPV Index | 0.643 | 1.502 | 0 | 11 |
| Emotional | 0.102 | 0.303 | 0 | 1 |
| Emotional Index | 0.168 | 0.555 | 0 | 3 |
| Physical | 0.206 | 0.405 | 0 | 1 |
| Physical Index | 0.492 | 1.203 | 0 | 7 |
| Sexual | 0.0508 | 0.220 | 0 | 1 |
| Sexual Index | 0.0697 | 0.320 | 0 | 2 |
| Sex Ratio | 1.038 | 0.0644 | 0.810 | 1.326 |

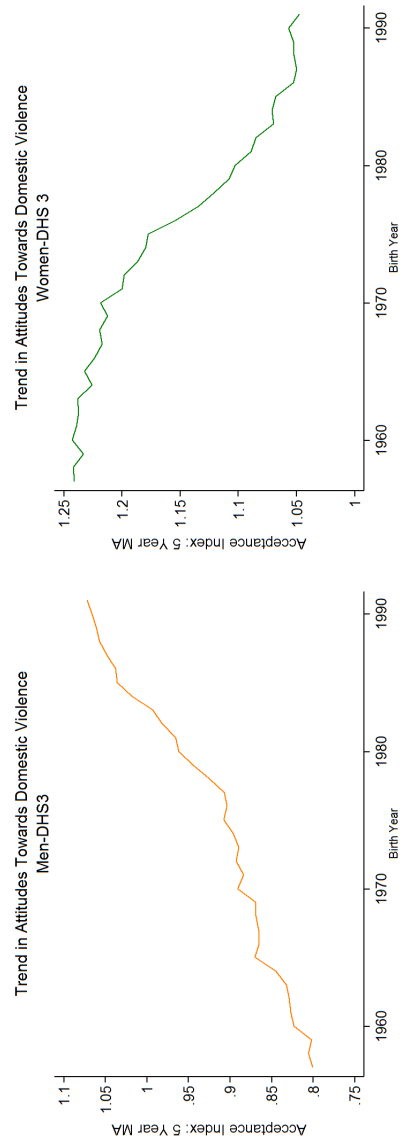
Notes: Using the sample of married women of NFHS III. Variable definitions are in Table 11. Sex Ratio is the ratio of males to females defined by age- group, caste and state.

Table 23: Sex Ratio and Male Attitudes towards domestic violence - Domain Specific Regressions

| | (1) Movement | (2) Children | (3) Arguing | (4) Sex | (5) Food |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Panel A: Woman | | | | | |
| Post * Child Sex Ratio | -0.286* (0.157) | -0.252** (0.116) | -0.167 (0.138) | -0.109 (0.151) | -0.078 (0.105) |
| Post | 0.304* (0.164) | 0.272** (0.124) | 0.150 (0.142) | 0.106 (0.159) | 0.069 (0.107) |
| Child Sex Ratio | -0.461 (0.265) | -0.161 (0.323) | -0.050 (0.279) | -0.222 (0.287) | 0.147 (0.261) |
| N | 90,184 | 90,184 | 90,184 | 90,184 | 90,184 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.118 | 0.112 | 0.087 | 0.068 | 0.070 |
| Panel B: Man | | | | | |
| Post * Child Sex Ratio | 0.170 (0.223) | 0.425** (0.197) | 0.615*** (0.169) | 0.292 (0.171) | 0.382*** (0.108) |
| Post | -0.066 (0.236) | -0.346 (0.221) | -0.604*** (0.182) | -0.295 (0.184) | -0.330** (0.127) |
| Child Sex Ratio | -0.692 (0.545) | -0.683 (0.414) | -0.136 (0.355) | -0.035 (0.357) | -0.425* (0.216) |
| N | 53,199 | 53,199 | 53,199 | 53,199 | 53,199 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.091 | 0.130 | 0.069 | 0.030 | 0.047 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Birth-Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The dependent variable is a dummy that takes values 1 if an individual tolerates physical abuse under each of the 5 domains. The dependent variables are obtained from the DHS questions: “Do you justify wife-beating if...”: i) ...she goes out without telling you?; ii) ...neglects the children?; iii) argues?; iii) ... she refuses to have sex? and, v) ...she burns the food?, respectively for columns (1)-(5). Panel A presents results for the women's sample and panel B for the man's sample. The child sex ratio is the ratio of males to females of ages 0-4 in the state-birth year of each individual. This is gathered from state-census year information from 1961-2011. Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if an individual was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. All specifications control religion dummies, an indicator for rural/urban household, education attainment dummies (no education is the omitted category) and household wealth index. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1, 5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Figure 7: Trends in Attitudes Towards Domestic Violence by Gender



Notes: Trend using the 5 year moving average of the Index measure of acceptance of domestic violence across birth years. Using NFHS-III data for all men and women.

Table 24: Intimate-Partner Violence as a function of sex ratio-separate domains

| | Humiliation | Threat | Insult | Push | Slap | Punch | Kick | Strangle | Threat with weapon | Pull Hair | Forced sex | Forced sexual Acts |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Post*SR | 0.612** (0.271) | 0.367 (0.467) | 0.458 (0.390) | 0.691* (0.354) | 0.529 (0.347) | 0.939*** (0.346) | 0.552 (0.408) | 1.119 (0.774) | 1.604** (0.743) | 0.775** (0.390) | 1.450*** (0.342) | 0.971** (0.408) |
| Post | -0.645** (0.269) | -0.342 (0.461) | -0.464 (0.384) | -0.754** (0.358) | -0.510 (0.345) | -1.019*** (0.361) | -0.611 (0.421) | -1.170 (0.826) | -1.813** (0.777) | -0.814** (0.389) | -1.443*** (0.335) | -0.978** (0.397) |
| SR | -0.597*** (0.204) | -0.036 (0.260) | -0.205 (0.332) | -0.302 (0.253) | -0.645*** (0.230) | -0.638** (0.264) | -0.613** (0.271) | -0.302 (0.679) | -0.669 (0.750) | -0.874*** (0.250) | -1.191*** (0.325) | -1.048*** (0.378) |
| N | 53,074 | 53,073 | 53,074 | 53,062 | 53,076 | 53,071 | 53,071 | 53,067 | 53,072 | 53,061 | 53,072 | 53,072 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Age-Group FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Caste FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The dependent variables are measures of intimate-partner violence by separate domains. All dependent variables are dichotomous measure of self-reported incidence of domestic violence as defined in Appendix- Table ???. Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. SR is the ratio of males to females in a given state-age-group-caste of the woman. Using the sample married women questionnaire of DHS-2005. We control for women's religion dummies, whether the woman resides in a rural area. All regressions also include state, age-group and caste dummies. Caste groups are defined as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Other. Age-group dummies are 5-year bins groups starting from 15-19 to 45-49. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 25: Marriage Quality as a function of sex ratio- Heterogeneous effect by Non- Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe

| | (1) Education Years | (2) Education Gap | (3) Age | (4) Age Gap | (5) Any IPV Index | (6) Any IPV | (7) Joint Decision | (8) Controlling | (9) Height | (10) Height Gap |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Post*Other Castes*SR | -3.340** (1.421) | 0.920 (0.945) | -0.989 (1.071) | -0.159 (1.175) | 0.872** (0.340) | 0.634 (0.397) | -1.332*** (0.344) | 0.808*** (0.306) | -1.997 (1.696) | -1.011 (1.604) |
| Other Castes*SR | 3.495* (1.672) | 0.772 (0.820) | -0.370 (1.319) | -0.844 (1.178) | -0.624** (0.257) | -0.598** (0.289) | -0.225 (0.304) | -0.802*** (0.285) | 0.201 (2.035) | 1.448 (2.035) |
| Post*SR | -1.218 (1.398) | -0.848 (1.556) | -0.407 (2.023) | -0.886 (1.915) | 1.254** (0.568) | 1.059** (0.467) | -0.983** (0.403) | 1.052*** (0.381) | 5.886** (2.700) | 6.950* (3.708) |
| N | 71,449 | 71,443 | 67,614 | 67,614 | 53,077 | 53,064 | 71,154 | 52,779 | 29,855 | 29,855 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Age-Group FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The dependent variables are measures of husbands quality or spousal gap (e.g. the difference between husband's and wife's age). Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. SR is the ratio of males to females in a given state-age-group-caste of the woman. Other Castes is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman is from a non SC/ST caste and 0 if it is. Using the sample married women questionnaire of DHS-2005. We control for women's religion dummies, whether the woman resides in a rural area. All regressions also include state, age-group and caste dummies. Caste groups are defined as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Other. The interaction term is a dummy that takes values 1 if a woman belongs to the category other caste. Age-group dummies are 5-year bins groups starting from 15-19 to 45-49. Joint-decision making is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman has any say in the husband decision over his income and 0 otherwise; controlling is a measure of controlling behaviour that takes values 1 if the husband exhibits any of the following behaviours: the husband is jealous if respondent talks with other men; husband accuses respondent of unfaithfulness; husband does not permit respondent to meet her girlfriends; husband tries to limit respondent's contact with family; husband insists on knowing where respondent is; husband doesn't trust respondent with money. Any IPV and IPV are an index and a dichotomous measure of self-reported incidence of domestic violence as defined in Appendix- Table ???. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 26: Marriage quality as a function of sex ratio- disaggregated measures of Intimate-Partner Violence with effects by Non-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe

| | (1) Emotional Index | (2) Physical Index | (3) Sexual Index | (4) Emotional | (5) Physical | (6) Sexual |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Post*Other Castes*SR | 0.197* (0.109) | 0.573* (0.277) | 0.466* (0.225) | 0.112* (0.055) | 0.124 (0.116) | 0.634 (0.397) |
| Other Castes* SR | -0.089 (0.073) | -0.434** (0.193) | -0.315* (0.155) | -0.070 (0.047) | -0.130 (0.081) | -0.598** (0.289) |
| Post*SR | 0.091 (0.187) | 0.967* (0.498) | 0.765* (0.390) | 0.117 (0.101) | 0.241 (0.164) | 1.059** (0.467) |
| Observations | 53,074 | 53,075 | 53,075 | 53,073 | 53,065 | 53,064 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Age-Group FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Caste FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The dependent variables are measures of intimate-partner violence by domains: emotional, physical and sexual. Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. SR is the ratio of males to females in a given state-age-group-caste of the woman. Other Castes is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman is from a non SC/ST caste and 0 if it is. For each measure we present an index and a dichotomous measure of self-reported incidence of domestic violence as defined in Appendix Table ???. Using the sample married women questionnaire of DHS-2005. In Panel A we control for women's religion dummies, whether the woman resides in a rural area and in Panel B we also control for women's educational attainment. All regressions include state, age-group and caste dummies. Caste groups are defined as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Other. Age-group dummies are 5-year bins groups starting from 15-19 to 45-49. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 27: Attitudes Towards Intimate-Partner Violence by Marriage Status

| | Men | | Women | |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Index | Binary | Index | Binary |
| Married | 0.214*** (0.030) | 0.071*** (0.011) | 0.485*** (0.060) | 0.138*** (0.013) |
| N | 47,879 | 47,879 | 90,645 | 90,645 |

The dependent variable is a dummy that takes values 1 if an individual tolerates physical abuse under each of the 5 domains. The dependent variables are obtained from the DHS questions: “Do you justify wife-beating if...: i) ...she goes out without telling you?; ii) ...neglects the children?; iii) argues?; iii) ... she refuses to have sex? and, v) ...she burns the food?, respectively for columns (1)-(5). We present results using the index and binary measures as defined in the text. Married is a dummy that takes values one if the individual is married or not. All specifications control religion dummies, an indicator for rural/urban household, education attainment dummies (no education is the omitted category) and household wealth index. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Instrumental variables

We explore instrumenting the youth sex ratio with the availability of ultrasound, which [Bhalotra and Cochrane \(2010\)](#) argue was driven by exogenous changes in import and licensing regulations. The first post-ultrasound cohorts, born in the mid-1980s have matured to age 20-24 by the census of 2011. However, although we see a strong trend in the 0-4 sex ratio in the three decades since the mid-80s, because we use the 20-24 sex ratio, we have only one post-ultrasound cohort in our data. Also district variation in ultrasound availability will be endogenous (a function of demand for sex-selective abortion), so the exogenous variation in availability of ultrasound is at the national level. As a result, the power of this potential instrument is weak. We explored interactions of an indicator for post-ultrasound cohorts with an indicator for the Northwest of the country, known to have stronger son preference ([Dyson and Moore, 1983](#); [Sen, 2003](#)). We also investigated alternative instruments, motivated by previous work. These include rainfall shocks ([Rose, 1999](#)), gold price shocks ([Bhalotra et al., 2016a](#)) and prices of rice and wheat weighted by land area under these crops ([Basu, 1992](#); [Bardhan, 1974](#)), all measured in the birth years of the cohorts who are 20-24 years old in each census year. However we continued to face a weak instruments problem. lthough we have multiple instruments, the first-stage results reveal that we have a weak instruments problem with an F-statistic well below 10 (bottom panel of Table [28](#), [29](#) and [30](#)). Nonetheless, we observe a positive and significant coefficient on the instrumented youth sex ratio for violence against women in the second-stage estimates. However, these estimates are imprecise and we do not rely upon them. Results are below in Tables [28- 30](#).

Table 28: 2SLS Estimates - Set of Instruments 1

| Second-Stage Dep. Var | (1) Total | (2) Against Women | (3) Non-gender based | (4) Property | (5) Economics |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| SR 20-24 | 1.613 (5.528) | 10.717 (7.252) | -4.366 (7.898) | -0.834 (6.292) | 8.526 (5.806) |
| First-Stage Dep. Var.: | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 |
| Rainfall | -0.008 (0.010) | -0.008 (0.010) | -0.008 (0.010) | -0.008 (0.010) | -0.008 (0.010) |
| Rice | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) |
| Wheat | 0.002 (0.003) | 0.002 (0.003) | 0.002 (0.003) | 0.002 (0.003) | 0.002 (0.003) |
| D.Rainfall | 0.016* (0.009) | 0.016* (0.009) | 0.016* (0.009) | 0.016* (0.009) | 0.016* (0.009) |
| D.Rice | 0.001 (0.004) | 0.001 (0.004) | 0.001 (0.004) | 0.001 (0.004) | 0.001 (0.004) |
| D. Wheat | -0.003 (0.005) | -0.003 (0.005) | -0.003 (0.005) | -0.003 (0.005) | -0.003 (0.005) |
| Post*Rainfall | 0.005 (0.007) | 0.005 (0.007) | 0.005 (0.007) | 0.005 (0.007) | 0.005 (0.007) |
| Post*Rice | -0.001 (0.001) | -0.001 (0.001) | -0.001 (0.001) | -0.001 (0.001) | -0.001 (0.001) |
| Post*Wheat | -0.000 (0.002) | -0.000 (0.002) | -0.000 (0.002) | -0.000 (0.002) | -0.000 (0.002) |
| Post*D.Rainfall | -0.014 (0.015) | -0.014 (0.015) | -0.014 (0.015) | -0.014 (0.015) | -0.014 (0.015) |
| Post*D.Rice | -0.002 (0.004) | -0.002 (0.004) | -0.002 (0.004) | -0.002 (0.004) | -0.002 (0.004) |
| Post*D.Wheat | -0.005 (0.006) | -0.005 (0.006) | -0.005 (0.006) | -0.005 (0.006) | -0.005 (0.006) |
| Kleibergen-Paap F-stat | 0.778 | 0.778 | 0.778 | 0.778 | 0.778 |
| N | 4,528 | 4,528 | 4,528 | 4,528 | 4,528 |
| Adj R-sq | 0.896 | 0.931 | 0.890 | 0.913 | 0.805 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Linear Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State-Year | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The top part of the table reports the second-stage estimates and the bottom panel reports first-stage results. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. All instruments are the 4-year moving average over the years of births of the 4 year bins sex ratio. For example in 1991 the sex ratio of the 20-24 is affected by conditions measured at birth over the period 1967-1971. The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. The set of instruments measured at birth are log of total rainfall, $price \times cultivatedarea$ of rice and wheat, the 1 year difference of these instruments and the interactions of with a dummy that takes values 1 for the birth years post 1980. We control for controlling for rural population, literacy rate, gender literacy gap, SC/ST share of the population and infant sex ratio. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Table 29: 2SLS Estimates- Set of Instruments 2

| Second-Stage Dep. Var | (1) Total | (2) Against Women | (3) Non-gender based | (4) Property | (5) Economics |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| SR 20-24 | -2.532 (5.069) | 1.768 (4.699) | -4.267 (6.019) | -1.291 (5.356) | 2.218 (5.107) |
| First-Stage- Dep Var | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 |
| Rainfall | -0.002 (0.008) | -0.002 (0.008) | -0.002 (0.008) | -0.002 (0.008) | -0.002 (0.008) |
| <i>Fertilizer_{Nitrogen}</i> | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) |
| <i>Fertilizer_{Phosphorus}</i> | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) |
| <i>Fertilizer_{Potassium}</i> | 0.000 (0.000) | 0.000 (0.000) | 0.000 (0.000) | 0.000 (0.000) | 0.000 (0.000) |
| Rice | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) |
| Wheat | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) |
| N | 4,599 | 4,599 | 4,599 | 4,599 | 4,599 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.896 | 0.946 | 0.890 | 0.913 | 0.834 |
| Kleibergen-Paap F-stat | 1.137 | 1.137 | 1.137 | 1.137 | 1.137 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Linear Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State-Year | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The top part of the table reports the second-stage estimates and the bottom panel reports first-stage results. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. All instruments are the 4-year moving average over the years of births of the 4 year bins sex ratio. For example in 1991 the sex ratio of the 20-24 is affected by conditions measured at birth over the period 1967-1971. The dependent variable is the log of crime rates per capita. The set of instruments measured at birth are *price \times quantities* sold of fertilizers nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium measured in Rs/ton. Fertilizer prices are controlled by the Government of India and are based on reported maximum sale prices of fertilizer compounds adjusted for the proportion of the nutrient present in each compound. We always control for district-specific linear trends, state-year dummies, district specific effects and year dummies in addition to controlling for rural population, literacy rate, gender literacy gap, SC/ST share of the population and infant sex ratio. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** or *.

Table 30: 2SLS Estimates - Set of Instruments 3

| Second-Stage Dep. Var | (1) Total | (2) Against Women | (3) Non-gender based | (4) Property | (5) Economics |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| SR 20-24 | 3.313 (6.252) | 8.684 (8.828) | -1.906 (7.158) | -1.012 (7.585) | 12.479 (9.160) |
| First-Stage- Dep. Var. | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 |
| Rainfall | -0.006 (0.009) | -0.006 (0.009) | -0.006 (0.009) | -0.006 (0.009) | -0.006 (0.009) |
| Rice | 0.001 (0.002) | 0.001 (0.002) | 0.001 (0.002) | 0.001 (0.002) | 0.001 (0.002) |
| Wheat | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) |
| D. Rainfall | 0.012 (0.009) | 0.012 (0.009) | 0.012 (0.009) | 0.012 (0.009) | 0.012 (0.009) |
| D. Rice | -0.001 (0.003) | -0.001 (0.003) | -0.001 (0.003) | -0.001 (0.003) | -0.001 (0.003) |
| D. Wheat | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.005 (0.005) |
| N | 4,502 | 4,502 | 4,502 | 4,502 | 4,502 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.893 | 0.936 | 0.892 | 0.913 | 0.768 |
| Kleibergen-Paap F-stat | 0.507 | 0.507 | 0.507 | 0.507 | 0.507 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Linear Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State-Year | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: Top part of the table report IV estimates and the bottom panel reports first-stage results. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. All instruments are the 4-year moving average over the years of births of the 4 year bins sex ratio. For example in 1991 the sex ratio of the 20-24 is affected by conditions measured at birth over the period 1967-1971. The dependent variable is the log of crime rates per capita. The set of instruments measured at birth are log of total rainfall, $price \times cultivatedarea$ of rice and wheat and the 1 year difference of these instruments. We always control for district-specific linear trends, state-year dummies, district specific effects and year dummies in addition to controlling for rural population, literacy rate, gender literacy gap, SC/ST share of the population and infant sex ratio. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** or *.

Online Appendix to:
**“Population Sex Ratios and Violence against Women:
The Long Run Consequences of Sex Selection in
India”**

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
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February, 2018

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Appendix A: Additional Aggregate Level Figures and Tables

Table 1: Missing Brides Index

| Survey | a_m | a_w | β | α | σ | Index |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|-------|
| 1992-1993 | 22.704 | 17.180 | 3.446 | 5.189 | 0.899 | 0.985 |
| 1998-1999 | 23.395 | 17.402 | 3.058 | 4.796 | 0.899 | 1.006 |
| d’Albis and de la Croix-2000 | 24.770 | 20.200 | 2.640 | 6.580 | 0.921 | 1.043 |
| 2004-2005 | 23.032 | 17.935 | 2.717 | 4.574 | 0.899 | 1.051 |

Notes: This table presents estimates of the Missing Brides Index developed by d’Albis and De La Croix (2012). We use the measure of fertility rate as in d’Albis and De La Croix (2012) for the years of the survey round (1992-1993; 1998-1999 and 2004-2005). This variable is collected using data from the U.N. population statistics. We created each of the components of the index in d’Albis and De La Croix (2012) using the mean variables of each round of National Family Health Surveys (rounds 1,2,3 for the years 1992-1993, 1998-1999 and 2005-2006, respectively). The index uses information on the average age at marriage for men and women (a_m and a_w); total fertility rate corrected for infant mortality of under five children (β); and age of childbearing (α , which is the mean age at childbearing minus the age at marriage and; the sex ratio (females to males) of pre-marriageable age (i.e. of age 10-14) cohorts (σ).

Table 2: Variable Definitions

| Measure | Description |
|--|---|
| Panel A: Violence against women and other crime | |
| Crimes against Women | Includes the incidents registered under rape (released since 1971), kidnapping and abduction of females (released since 1988), molestation, sexual harassment, cruelty by husband and relatives (all released since 1995) |
| Non-gender based Violence | Includes the incidents registered underunder riots, murder, dacoity (available since 1971), male kidnappings (released since 1988), arson and hurt (released since 1995). |
| Property | Includes the incidents registered under under the categories of burglary, robbery, theft (all available since 1971). |
| Economic | Includes the incidents registered under under the categories of criminal breach of trust, cheating (all available since 1971) and counterfeiting (available since 1995). |
| Panel B: Surveyed intimate partner violence | |
| Humiliation | Spouse ever humiliated her |
| Threat | Spouse ever threatened her with harm |
| Insult | Spouse ever insult or make feel bad |
| Push | Spouse ever pushed, shook or threw something |
| Slap | Spouse ever slapped |
| Punch | Spouse ever punched with fist or something harmful |
| Kick | Spouse ever kicked or dragged |
| Strangle | Spouse ever tried to strangle or burn |
| Threat with weapon | Spouse ever threatened with knife/gun or other weapon |
| Pull Hair | Spouse ever twisted her arm or pulled her hair |
| Forced sex | Spouse ever physically forced sex when not wanted |
| Forced sexual Acts | Spouse ever forced other sexual acts when not wanted |

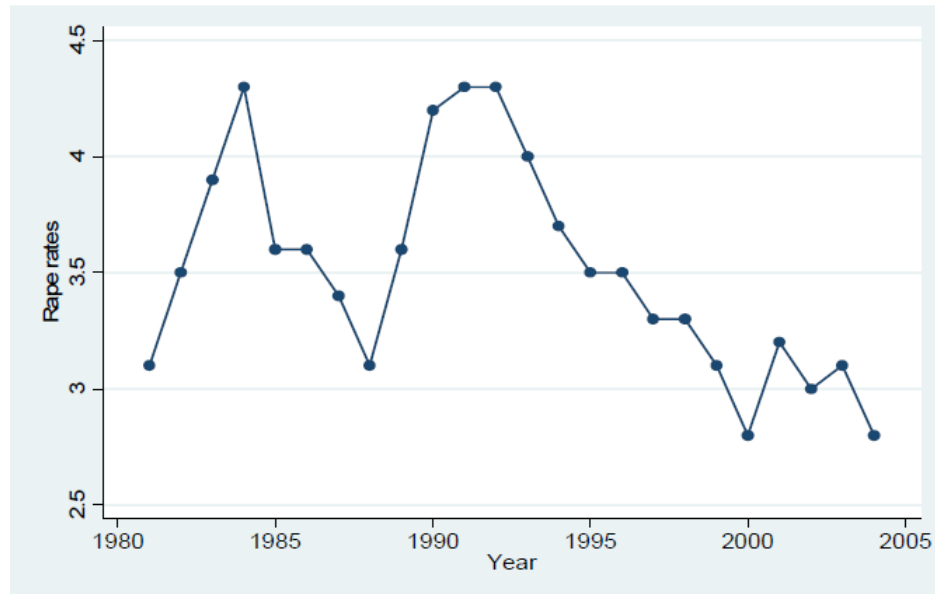
Notes: Panel A presents the definitions of crime rates variables from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Crime rates is defined as total incidents per 100, 000 population. Crime definitions are from the Indian Penal Code. Panel B present definitions of self-reported measures of intimate-partner violence from the National Family Health Survey, wave III (NFHS). The measures come from DHS questions of the following form: "Did your (last) (husband/partner) ever do any of the following things to you..." for each of the measures outlined above. Using these responses we create variables for emotional, physical and sexual violence as an index (i.e. the sum of responses by domain) and as dummy variables that take values 1 if the respondent was a victim of any of the forms of abuse listed. We also construct an aggregate measure formed of all responses listed in the table.

Table 3: Summary Statistics - By Age-Gender-Crime Type Offender Profile

| Age-group Crime Categories | < 18 Years | Between 18-30 Years | Between 30-45 Years | Between 45-60 Years | > 60 Years | Total (by gender) |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Panel A: Male Offenders | | | | | | |
| Violence against Women | 0.841% | 41.826% | 28.700% | 11.850% | 1.968% | 85.186% |
| Non-Gender based Crime | 1.088% | 43.256% | 34.136% | 14.836% | 1.712% | 95.028% |
| Total IPC Crime | 1.063% | 43.110% | 33.579% | 14.530% | 1.738% | 94.019% |
| Panel B: Female Offenders | | | | | | |
| Violence against Women | 0.082% | 4.583% | 5.309% | 4.018% | 0.824% | 14.814% |
| Non-Gender based Crime | 0.047% | 1.879% | 2.066% | 0.866% | 0.114% | 4.972% |
| Total IPC Crime | 0.051% | 2.156% | 2.398% | 1.189% | 0.187% | 5.981% |

Notes: Based on the National Crime Records Bureau Report of 2011. Each cell represents the share of **arrested** offenders by age-group and crime type for males (Panel A) and females (Panel B). Violence against women comprises all Indian Penal Code (IPC) crime under the categories of rape, kidnapping and abduction of women and girls, dowry deaths, molestation, sexual harassment, cruelty by husband and relatives, importation of women and girls. Non-gender based crime comprises arrests for all crimes under acquisitive crime and non-gender based violence as defined in 2. The age-group decomposition shown is the decomposition available from the NCRB reports. For example 94.019% of total IPC crime is committed by males whereas the remaining (5.981%) is committed by females. When looking at VAW, 85.186% is committed by males and 14.814% is committed by females against other females. When looking by age-group, 46.409% of VAW is committed by those age between 18-30, with men in this age-group committing 41.826% and females 4.583%.

Figure 1: **Trend in Rape in China**



Notes: Figure from Edlund et.al, (2013). Rape rates are defined as counts of rapes registered by the police per 10,000 population. This figure shows a recent trend decline in the rape rate in China which contrast to the case of India.

Table 4: Summary Statistics- Share of unmarried individuals

| | | Census | | NFHS-2005 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Mean | SD | Mean | SD |
| Men | Age-group: 15-44 | 0.465 | 0.053 | 0.507 | 0.499 |
| | Age-group: 15-19 | 0.924 | 0.080 | 0.980 | 0.001 |
| | Age-group: 20-24 | 0.627 | 0.171 | 0.756 | 0.004 |
| | Age-group: 25-34 | 0.188 | 0.097 | 0.384 | 0.005 |
| | Age-group: 35-44 | 0.035 | 0.018 | 0.086 | 0.002 |
| Women | | | | | |
| Age-group: 15-44 | | 0.228 | 0.078 | 0.246 | 0.430 |
| Age-group: 15-19 | | 0.712 | 0.175 | 0.776 | 0.003 |
| Age-group: 20-24 | | 0.228 | 0.138 | 0.309 | 0.003 |
| Age-group: 25-34 | | 0.043 | 0.036 | 0.053 | 0.001 |
| Age-group: 35-44 | | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.011 | 0.000 |

Notes: The top panel shows rates of unmarried men by different age-groups and the bottom panel the rates for women. The first 2 columns use district-level Census data from 1991 and 2001. Columns 3 and 4 use data from all men and women surveyed in the NFHS-III across the 16 major states of India.

Table 5: Summary Statistics- Crime and Sex Ratios Data

| Panel A: Crime Rates (per 100,000) | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| | Mean | SD | Δ 1972-2010 | Δ 1995-2010 | |
| Total Crime | 90.430 | 58.586 | -0.241 | -0.152 | |
| Total against Women | | | | | |
| Rape | 6.233 | 8.325 | 26.15 | 0.336 | |
| Domestic Violence* | 1.361 | 1.424 | 2.007 | 0.0382 | |
| Molestation* | 5.149 | 4.875 | | 0.845 | |
| Sexual Harassment* | 3.926 | 3.818 | | -0.0230 | |
| Kidnapping of Females* | 0.784 | 1.465 | | 0.575 | |
| | 1.497 | 1.616 | | 0.0973 | |
| Total non-gender based | | | | | |
| Murder | 25.61 | 23.83 | 1.259 | -0.189 | |
| Dacoity | 3.319 | 2.278 | -0.251 | -0.372 | |
| Riots | 1.016 | 1.685 | -0.865 | -0.557 | |
| Kidnapping of Males* | 9.689 | 10.33 | -0.525 | -0.532 | |
| Arson* | 1.908 | 1.957 | | -0.228 | |
| Hurt* | 1.059 | 1.112 | | -0.486 | |
| | 26.79 | 26.25 | | -0.0234 | |
| Property | | | | | |
| Robbery | 53.37 | 48.10 | -0.695 | -0.323 | |
| Thefts | 2.610 | 3.064 | -0.561 | -0.291 | |
| Burglary | 33.41 | 33.27 | -0.657 | -0.247 | |
| | 17.35 | 15.48 | -0.776 | -0.470 | |
| Economic | | | | | |
| Counterfeiting | 5.225 | 4.641 | 0.232 | 0.469 | |
| Cheating | 1.993 | 2.197 | | -0.257 | |
| Criminal Breach of Trust | 3.098 | 3.629 | 1.756 | 0.860 | |
| | 0.134 | 0.718 | -0.694 | -0.255 | |
| Panel B: Sex Ratio | | | | | |
| SR 0-4 | 1.054 | 0.0504 | 0.058 | 0.021 | |
| SR 10-19 | 1.136 | 0.102 | -0.024 | 0.191 | |
| SR 20-24 | 1.033 | 0.111 | 0.087 | 0.300 | |
| SR 25-34 | 1.011 | 0.0985 | 0.015 | 0.265 | |
| SR 35-44 | 1.119 | 0.629 | | 0.187 | |
| SR45-64 | 1.097 | 0.684 | | 0.235 | |

Notes: Panel A shows the crime rates per 100,000 population. Crime data comes from yearly publications of the NCRB. Panel B shows sex ratios using Census Publications of 1972 to 2010 for age-groups 0-4, 10-19, 15-19, 20-24 and 25-34; and using Census publications from 1991 to 2011 for the age-groups 35-44 and 45-64. * denote crime categories that are not available since 1972. Δ stands for total growth rate over the designated period. Crime definitions are provided in Table 2 in Appendix.

Crime Reporting in India, the NCRB database and the construction of compatible districts across years

We use police reported data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of India to measure violence against women and other forms of crime. The NCRB publishes information at the crime-area level for cognizable crimes prescribed under the Indian Penal Code. This is the major source of administrative data on law and order in India. The data released is based on information gathered from two processes. First, once an incident occurs and is reported, the police are required to register a First Information Report (FIR)- see also [Iyer et al. \(2012\)](#) for an overview. The aggregated information from these reports is then gathered by each police station and reported to the NCRB. The information at the crime area level is what we collect from on-line publications.

In order to match these with districts at any given year-state we use the following process. In order to match a given crime area to its district we used general information from the web and government websites to construct an auxiliary dataset to aggregate crime-area units to its districts. For most cases crime areas are large metropolitan cities or rural areas. For example, Kochwe is a city in the district of Ernakulam in Kerala (<http://ernakulam.nic.in/history.htm>). Thus, crime area statistics of Kochwe are aggregated to the district-level statistics of Ernakulam. This process was cross-checked twice in order to remove any potential errors. It is worth noting that it is not possible to conduct the analysis at a lower administrative level than the district as data reporting is not consistent over time and space for lower administrative areas.

The division of the Indian administrative boundaries for districts and states varies considerably over the period of our sample. In order to compare the same geographic unit over time we aggregate the information to each district boundary of 1971. This process was done via the database constructed by [Kumar and Somanathan \(2009\)](#) and on our own data construction based on publicly available histories of each district. In 1971, there were 306 districts at the in our sample of the 16 major states of India. Our tracking process allows us to track about 84% of the districts since 1971 ¹.

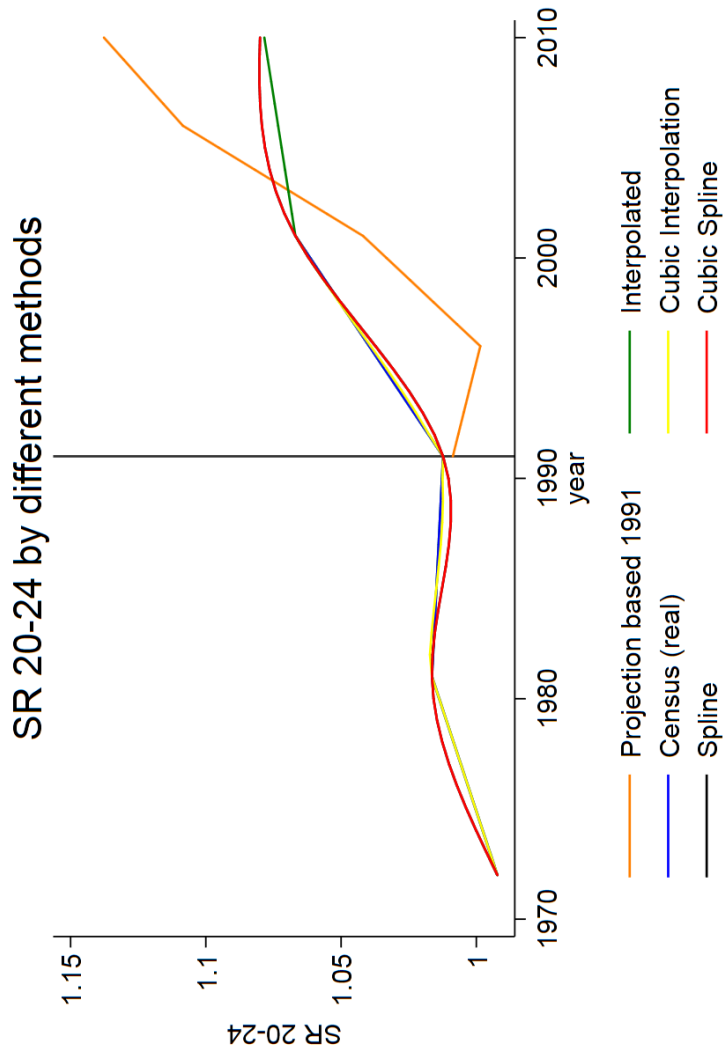
¹However, our final sample of districts differs from the sample had these splits not occurred. Our sample has higher crime rates, higher sex ratios, less rural population and is less gender equal (see Table 1 of this Appendix.) The states included in the sample are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal. The newly created states of Telangana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal are merged with their pre-2001 state boundary definitions.

Table 6: **Balance Test**

| | Not-Traceable | | Traceable | | Difference | SD |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|
| | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | | |
| Violence against Women | 10.88 | 7.369 | 14.41 | 8.766 | -3.529*** | (0.747) |
| Non-gender based violence | 39.61 | 30.98 | 43.58 | 29.26 | -3.978 | (2.773) |
| Property | 27.65 | 34.21 | 34.03 | 24.34 | -6.371** | (2.724) |
| Economic | 4.824 | 5.560 | 5.470 | 5.135 | -0.646 | (0.492) |
| Total | 82.96 | 62.10 | 97.49 | 53.37 | -14.524*** | (5.323) |
| Scheduled Caste (%) | 16.14 | 8.182 | 17.04 | 7.033 | -0.894 | (0.701) |
| Scheduled Tribe (%) | 10.74 | 18.14 | 9.901 | 15.65 | 0.838 | (1.557) |
| Rural Population (%) | 79.90 | 16.60 | 76.27 | 15.21 | 3.637** | (1.465) |
| Literacy Rate | 52.67 | 12.98 | 53.50 | 10.25 | -0.838 | (1.074) |
| Gender gap in Literacy | 11.81 | 0.06 | 12.27 | 0.04 | -0.455*** | (0.070) |
| SR 0-4 | 1.074 | 0.0676 | 1.079 | 0.0591 | -0.006 | (0.006) |
| SR 10-19 | 1.126 | 0.0903 | 1.143 | 0.0930 | -0.017** | (0.008) |
| SR 20-24 | 1.039 | 0.127 | 1.073 | 0.111 | -0.035*** | (0.011) |
| SR 25-34 | 0.985 | 0.0900 | 0.998 | 0.0767 | -0.013* | (0.008) |
| SR 35-44 | 1.083 | 0.0921 | 1.094 | 0.0843 | -0.012 | (0.008) |
| SR 45-64 | 1.070 | 0.0885 | 1.063 | 0.0733 | 0.007 | (0.007) |

Notes: Difference in means between districts traceable and not traceable across 1971, 1981 and 1991 and 2001 . Using data from the 2001 Census. All variable definitions are as defined in Table 1.

Figure 2: Decadal Census sex ratio 20-24: Interpolation Alternatives



Notes: Trend in the sex ratio of 20-24 age group by method: i) projection based on 1991 Census and following the method of Edlund et al, 2013; ii) spline; iii) linear interpolation; iv) cubic interpolation and v) cubic spline.

Table 7: Individual Crime Regressions

| | Total | | Against Women | | Non-Gender Violence | | Property | | Economic | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) |
| SR 20-24 | 0.826** (0.333) | 0.653** (0.315) | 0.932** (0.392) | 1.024*** (0.352) | 1.920*** (0.406) | 0.774* (0.432) | 0.209 (0.335) | 0.549 (0.341) | 0.267 (0.324) | 0.469 (0.321) |
| SR 0-4 | -0.371 (0.575) | -1.448** (0.692) | -0.538 (0.518) | -0.477 (0.484) | -0.337 (0.725) | -1.578* (0.866) | -0.331 (0.620) | -1.118* (0.671) | 0.697 (0.564) | -0.826 (0.651) |
| SR 10-19 | -0.220 (0.370) | 0.006 (0.369) | 0.811** (0.363) | 0.343 (0.369) | -0.467 (0.484) | 0.321 (0.526) | -0.138 (0.410) | -0.128 (0.392) | 0.037 (0.357) | 0.209 (0.339) |
| SR 15-19 | -0.503* (0.267) | -0.318 (0.332) | 0.148 (0.241) | -0.171 (0.262) | -0.476 (0.387) | -0.232 (0.469) | -0.491* (0.279) | -0.377 (0.330) | -0.518** (0.231) | -0.231 (0.270) |
| SR 25-34 | 0.913*** (0.337) | 0.449 (0.274) | 0.699* (0.396) | 1.019*** (0.387) | 0.584 (0.405) | 0.989** (0.388) | 0.178 (0.398) | 0.447 (0.385) | 1.458*** (0.450) | 0.930** (0.461) |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State Controls | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State*Year | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |

Notes: Each cell is a coefficient and standard-error from a separate regression. The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1, 5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 8: Showing all controls in Table ??

| | Total | Against Women | Non-gender Based | Property | Economic |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| SR 20-24 | 0.062 (0.329) | 0.913** (0.398) | 0.864* (0.475) | 0.195 (0.337) | 0.301 (0.315) |
| SR 0-4 | 1.423** (0.651) | -0.418 (0.540) | 2.166** (0.854) | -0.305 (0.623) | 0.737 (0.574) |
| % SC | 0.034** (0.012) | 0.005 (0.016) | 0.066*** (0.014) | 0.007 (0.015) | 0.005 (0.011) |
| %ST | 0.028*** (0.009) | 0.006 (0.010) | 0.040*** (0.010) | 0.012 (0.008) | 0.011 (0.007) |
| %Rural | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.002 (0.005) | -0.008 (0.006) | 0.011** (0.005) | 0.008 (0.005) |
| Literacy | 0.010 (0.007) | -0.007 (0.006) | 0.023*** (0.008) | -0.005 (0.006) | 0.003 (0.006) |
| Gender Gap in Literacy | 0.019 (0.012) | 0.043** (0.017) | -0.024 (0.015) | 0.026 (0.022) | 0.004 (0.017) |
| Annual Rainfall (log of) | -0.042** (0.019) | -0.035** (0.014) | -0.018 (0.026) | -0.053*** (0.016) | -0.037** (0.016) |
| Income p.c. | 0.173*** (0.033) | 0.060* (0.033) | 0.124*** (0.042) | 0.005 (0.033) | 0.112*** (0.030) |
| Police Strength | 1.129*** (0.076) | 0.128*** (0.041) | 1.213*** (0.092) | 0.232*** (0.043) | 0.112*** (0.037) |
| Election Year | -0.013* (0.007) | -0.000 (0.007) | -0.040*** (0.009) | 0.003 (0.006) | -0.022*** (0.007) |
| N | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.291 | 0.908 | 0.416 | 0.758 | 0.430 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: Coefficients as in Table ??. The dependent variable is the log of crime rates per capita. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. We always control for district specific effects and year dummies in addition to controlling for rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs) and, a dummy for state election years, state police per capita and state GDP per capita. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1, 5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** or *.

Table 9: Replication of (Edlund et al., 2013)

| | Total | | Against Women | | Non-Gender Violence | | Property | | Economic | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (2) |
| SR 10-19 | -0.083 (0.396) | (0.347) -0.275 | -0.061 (0.574) | 0.226 (0.491) | -0.023 (0.614) | -0.514 (0.497) | -0.159 (0.437) | 0.100 (0.439) | -0.757 (0.652) | 0.444 (0.544) |
| SR 20-24 | 0.637 (0.557) | (0.486) -0.178 | 1.801** (0.736) | 0.802 (0.653) | 1.605* (0.878) | -1.025 (0.870) | -0.028 (0.502) | -0.181 (0.526) | 1.486* (0.810) | 0.976 (0.772) |
| SR 25-34 | -1.008 (0.677) | (0.581) -0.102 | -1.516 (0.993) | -0.714 (0.816) | -0.916 (1.047) | -0.087 (0.896) | -0.959 (0.667) | -0.535 (0.652) | -2.754*** (1.043) | -0.724 (0.819) |
| SR 35-44 | -1.211 (0.798) | (0.773) 0.488 | -0.619 (1.088) | -0.318 (1.083) | -0.125 (1.211) | 1.185 (1.052) | -0.905 (0.800) | -1.121 (0.889) | -1.539 (1.089) | -0.432 (1.154) |
| SR 45-64 | 1.486 (1.030) | (0.901) | 0.317 (1.293) | 0.017 (1.244) | -0.510 (1.399) | 0.354 (1.181) | 1.825* (1.027) | 1.580* (0.952) | 3.071** (1.285) | -0.209 (1.119) |
| N | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 | 4,760 |
| Adj. R-sq | 0.536 | 0.652 | 0.842 | 0.886 | 0.632 | 0.760 | 0.653 | 0.701 | 0.426 | 0.499 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State Controls | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State*Year | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |

Notes: Coefficients from estimating specification (1) with additional age-specific sex ratios (10-19, 25-34, 35-44 and 45-64) following (Edlund et al., 2013). SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. Because age-specific population data from ages 35 onwards are only available since the Census of 1991 this Tables uses data from 1991 onwards only. The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). State-level controls include an election year dummy, state police per capita and GDP per capita. There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 10: Additional Robustness Checks

| | Total | | Against Women | | Non-Gender Violence | | Property | | Ec |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | from Table ?? | (1) | (2) | from Table ?? | (1) | (2) | |
| SR 20-24 | 0.758*** (0.220) | 0.749*** (0.221) | 0.450** (0.228) | 0.863*** (0.244) | 0.863*** (0.241) | 0.767*** (0.231) | 1.768*** (0.279) | 1.770*** (0.278) | 0.557* (0.301) |
| SR 0-4 | -0.207 (0.403) | -0.216 (0.406) | -0.940** (0.460) | -0.452 (0.370) | -0.373 (0.360) | 0.091 (0.351) | -0.508 (0.508) | -0.460 (0.512) | -1.097* (0.566) |
| N | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 | 10,062 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.817 | 0.817 | 0.855 | 0.920 | 0.920 | 0.945 | 0.789 | 0.791 | 0.854 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| District Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Gender Lit. Gap | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| $State \times Year$ | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |

Notes: Coefficients from estimating specification (1) where in columns (1) we do not include any control, in columns (2) we include as set of controls the share of literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs), election year dummy and state police per capita and GDP per capita as well gap. In columns (3) we present the most parsimonious regression as show in Baseline from Table ???. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are district-decade-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 11: **Addressing measurement error concerns**

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Total | Women | Non-Gender | Property | Economics |
| Panel A: Levels | | | | | |
| SR 20-24 | 1.058*** (0.390) | 0.916** (0.448) | 1.860*** (0.464) | 0.427 (0.387) | 0.038 (0.376) |
| SR 0-4 | 1.015* (0.560) | 0.211 (0.616) | 0.522 (0.681) | 1.020* (0.598) | 0.526 (0.657) |
| Observations | 1,290 | 1,290 | 1,290 | 1,290 | 1,290 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.688 | 0.936 | 0.778 | 0.823 | 0.596 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Linear Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Panel B: First- Differences | | | | | |
| SR 20-24 | 0.406 (0.323) | 1.019*** (0.327) | 1.274*** (0.425) | -0.012 (0.347) | -0.189 (0.336) |
| SR 0-4 | 0.250 (0.602) | 0.347 (0.658) | -0.206 (0.723) | 0.571 (0.677) | 0.658 (0.758) |
| N | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,032 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.318 | 0.661 | 0.563 | 0.262 | 0.311 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: This tables uses data for the years 1971,1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. Coefficients from estimating equation (1) but with the dependent variable in levels in Panel A and in first-differences in Panel B. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females and is measured in levels in Panel A and in first-differences in Panel B. Independent variables are also defined in levels or first-differences, respectively in Panel A and B. District-level controls include rural population, literacy rate, SC/ST share of the population, total annual rainfall (in logs). There are 258 districts. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Appendix B: Additional Individual-Level Results

Table 12: NFHS III-Summary Statistics: Attitudes towards Intimate Partner Violence

| | Men | | | Women | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----|-----|
| | Mean | SD | Min | Max | Mean | SD | Min | Max |
| Acceptance Index | 0.943 | 1.390 | 0 | 5 | 1.147 | 1.629 | 0 | 5 |
| Acceptance Binary | 0.403 | 0.490 | 0 | 1 | 0.422 | 0.494 | 0 | 1 |
| Acceptance by Domain: | | | | | | | | |
| Movement | 0.226 | 0.418 | 0 | 1 | 0.257 | 0.437 | 0 | 1 |
| Children | 0.289 | 0.453 | 0 | 1 | 0.314 | 0.464 | 0 | 1 |
| Argues | 0.243 | 0.429 | 0 | 1 | 0.269 | 0.444 | 0 | 1 |
| Sex | 0.0722 | 0.259 | 0 | 1 | 0.128 | 0.334 | 0 | 1 |
| Food | 0.113 | 0.317 | 0 | 1 | 0.179 | 0.384 | 0 | 1 |
| Controls: | | | | | | | | |
| No Education | 0.148 | 0.355 | 0 | 1 | 0.347 | 0.476 | 0 | 1 |
| Primary Education | 0.154 | 0.361 | 0 | 1 | 0.143 | 0.350 | 0 | 1 |
| Secondary Education | 0.544 | 0.498 | 0 | 1 | 0.407 | 0.491 | 0 | 1 |
| Higher Education | 0.154 | 0.361 | 0 | 1 | 0.103 | 0.304 | 0 | 1 |
| Hindu | 0.807 | 0.395 | 0 | 1 | 0.799 | 0.401 | 0 | 1 |
| Muslim | 0.133 | 0.340 | 0 | 1 | 0.133 | 0.340 | 0 | 1 |
| Christian | 0.0220 | 0.147 | 0 | 1 | 0.0223 | 0.148 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 0.0374 | 0.190 | 0 | 1 | 0.0417 | 0.200 | 0 | 1 |
| Rural | 0.480 | 0.500 | 0 | 1 | 0.549 | 0.498 | 0 | 1 |
| Household Size | 5.902 | 3.082 | 1 | 35 | 6.055 | 3.059 | 1 | 35 |
| Wealth Index | 2.305 | 0.848 | 1 | 3 | 2.250 | 0.871 | 1 | 3 |
| Age Gap at First Marriage* | 22.583 | 4.651 | 1 | 48 | 17.567 | 3.616 | 2 | 44 |
| N | 53,240 | | | 90,184 | | | | |

Notes: Using the sample of men and women born between 1957 and 1991 across the major 17 Indian states. Variables acceptance index and binary are obtained from the DHS questions: “Do you justify wife-beating if...”: i) ... goes out without telling you?; ii) ... burns the food?; iii) ... refuses to have sex?; iv) ... neglects the children? and, v) argues?. Acceptance index is a measure that varies from 0-5 according to each response of total domains of acceptance of domestic violence. The binary measure takes values 0 if the respondent never justifies physical abuse and 1 if justifies in at least 1 circumstance. The remaining variables are used as controls in specification (3). All data comes from NFHS-III. *: This information uses only the sample of married individuals (N=32,681 for men and N=71,929 for women).

Table 13: NFHS III-Summary Statistics: Married women Sample

| | (1) Mean | (2) SD | (3) Min | (4) Max |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Education Years | 7.122 | 5.147 | 0 | 24 |
| Education Gap | 5.443 | 4.494 | -7 | 21 |
| Height | 164.7 | 6.448 | 106.4 | 196.2 |
| Height Gap | 12.61 | 7.591 | -50.50 | 58.90 |
| Age | 31.61 | 8.014 | 15 | 49 |
| Age Gap | 5.481 | 4.054 | -14 | 32 |
| Join-decision | 0.749 | 0.433 | 0 | 1 |
| Controlling | 0.318 | 0.466 | 0 | 1 |
| Any IPV | 0.250 | 0.433 | 0 | 1 |
| Any IPV Index | 0.643 | 1.502 | 0 | 11 |
| Emotional | 0.102 | 0.303 | 0 | 1 |
| Emotional Index | 0.168 | 0.555 | 0 | 3 |
| Physical | 0.206 | 0.405 | 0 | 1 |
| Physical Index | 0.492 | 1.203 | 0 | 7 |
| Sexual | 0.0508 | 0.220 | 0 | 1 |
| Sexual Index | 0.0697 | 0.320 | 0 | 2 |
| Sex Ratio | 1.038 | 0.0644 | 0.810 | 1.326 |

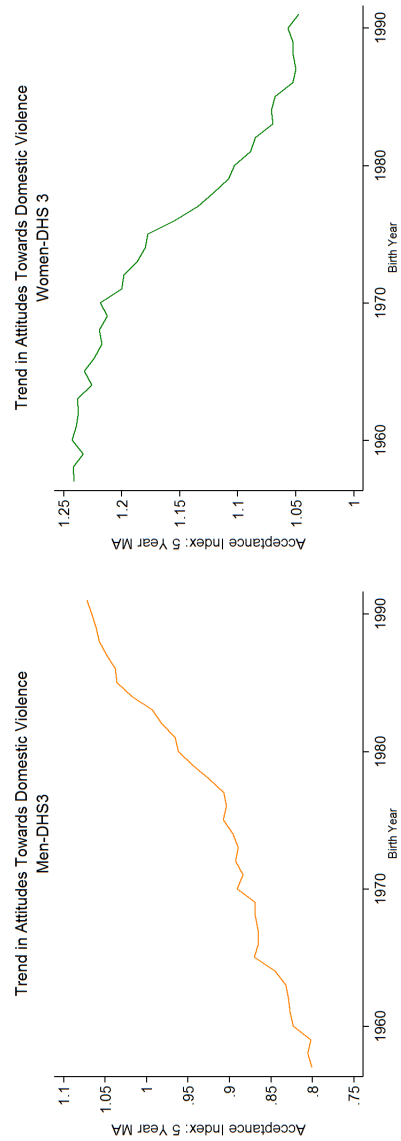
Notes: Using the sample of married women of NFHS III. Variable definitions are in Table 2. Sex Ratio is the ratio of males to females defined by age- group, caste and state.

Table 14: Sex Ratio and Male Attitudes towards domestic violence - Domain Specific Regressions

| | (1) Movement | (2) Children | (3) Arguing | (4) Sex | (5) Food |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Panel A: Woman | | | | | |
| Post * Child Sex Ratio | -0.286* (0.157) | -0.252** (0.116) | -0.167 (0.138) | -0.109 (0.151) | -0.078 (0.105) |
| Post | 0.304* (0.164) | 0.272** (0.124) | 0.150 (0.142) | 0.106 (0.159) | 0.069 (0.107) |
| Child Sex Ratio | -0.461 (0.265) | -0.161 (0.323) | -0.050 (0.279) | -0.222 (0.287) | 0.147 (0.261) |
| N | 90,184 | 90,184 | 90,184 | 90,184 | 90,184 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.118 | 0.112 | 0.087 | 0.068 | 0.070 |
| Panel B: Man | | | | | |
| Post * Child Sex Ratio | 0.170 (0.223) | 0.425** (0.197) | 0.615*** (0.169) | 0.292 (0.171) | 0.382*** (0.108) |
| Post | -0.066 (0.236) | -0.346 (0.221) | -0.604*** (0.182) | -0.295 (0.184) | -0.330** (0.127) |
| Child Sex Ratio | -0.692 (0.545) | -0.683 (0.414) | -0.136 (0.355) | -0.035 (0.357) | -0.425* (0.216) |
| N | 53,199 | 53,199 | 53,199 | 53,199 | 53,199 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.091 | 0.130 | 0.069 | 0.030 | 0.047 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Birth-Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The dependent variable is a dummy that takes values 1 if an individual tolerates physical abuse under each of the 5 domains. The dependent variables are obtain from the DHS questions: “Do you justify wife-beating if...”: i) ...she goes out without telling you?; ii) ...neglects the children?; iii) argues?; iii) ... she refuses to have sex? and, v) ...she burns the food?, respectively for columns (1)-(5). Panel A presents results for the women’s sample and panel B for the man’s sample. The child sex ratio is the ratio of males to females of ages 0-4 in the state-birth year of each individual. This is gathered from state-Census year information from 1961-2011. Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if an individual was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. All specifications control religion dummies, an indicator for rural/urban household, education attainment dummies (no education is the omitted category) and household wealth index. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Figure 3: Trends in Attitudes Towards Domestic Violence by Gender



Notes: Trend using the 5 year moving average of the Index measure of acceptance of domestic violence across birth years. Using NFHS-III data for all men and women.

Table 15: Intimate-Partner Violence as a function of sex ratio-separate domains

| | Humiliation | Threat | Insult | Push | Slap | Punch | Kick | Strangle | Threat with weapon | Pull Hair | Forced sex | Forced sexual Acts |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Post*SR | 0.612** (0.271) | 0.367 (0.467) | 0.458 (0.390) | 0.691* (0.354) | 0.529 (0.347) | 0.939*** (0.346) | 0.552 (0.408) | 1.119 (0.774) | 1.604** (0.743) | 0.775** (0.390) | 1.450*** (0.342) | 0.971** (0.408) |
| Post | -0.645** (0.269) | -0.342 (0.461) | -0.464 (0.384) | -0.754** (0.358) | -0.510 (0.345) | -1.019*** (0.361) | -0.611 (0.421) | -1.170 (0.826) | -1.813** (0.777) | -0.814** (0.389) | -1.443*** (0.335) | -0.978** (0.397) |
| SR | -0.597*** (0.204) | -0.036 (0.260) | -0.205 (0.332) | -0.302 (0.253) | -0.645*** (0.230) | -0.638** (0.264) | -0.613** (0.271) | -0.302 (0.679) | -0.669 (0.750) | -0.874*** (0.250) | -1.191*** (0.325) | -1.048*** (0.378) |
| N | 53,074 | 53,073 | 53,074 | 53,062 | 53,075 | 53,071 | 53,071 | 53,067 | 53,072 | 53,061 | 53,072 | 53,072 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Age-Group | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Caste FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The dependent variables are measures of intimate-partner violence by separate domains. All dependent variables are dichotomous measure of self-reported incidence of domestic violence as defined in Appendix- Table ???. Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. SR is the ratio of males to females in a given state-age-group-caste of the woman. Using the sample married women questionnaire of DHS-2005. We control for women's religion dummies, whether the woman resides in a rural area. All regressions also include state, age-group and caste dummies. Caste groups are defined as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Other. Age-group dummies are 5-year bins groups starting from 15-19 to 45-49. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Table 16: Marriage Quality as a function of sex ratio- Heterogeneous effect by Non- Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe

| | (1) Education Years | (2) Education Gap | (3) Age | (4) Age Gap | (5) Any IPV Index | (6) Any IPV | (7) Joint Decision | (8) Controlling | (9) Height | (10) Height Gap |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Post*Other Castes*SR | -3.340** (1.421) | 0.920 (0.945) | -0.989 (1.071) | -0.159 (1.175) | 0.872** (0.340) | 0.634 (0.397) | -1.332*** (0.344) | 0.808*** (0.306) | -1.997 (1.696) | -1.011 (1.604) |
| Other Castes*SR | 3.495* (1.672) | 0.772 (0.820) | -0.370 (1.319) | -0.844 (1.178) | -0.624** (0.257) | -0.598** (0.289) | -0.225 (0.304) | -0.802*** (0.285) | 0.201 (2.035) | 1.448 (2.035) |
| Post*SR | -1.218 (1.398) | -0.848 (1.556) | -0.407 (2.023) | -0.886 (1.915) | 1.254** (0.568) | 1.059** (0.467) | -0.983** (0.403) | 1.052*** (0.381) | 5.886** (2.700) | 6.950* (3.708) |
| N | 71,449 | 71,443 | 67,614 | 67,614 | 53,077 | 53,064 | 71,154 | 52,779 | 29,855 | 29,855 |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Age-Group FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The dependent variables are measures of husbands quality or spousal gap (e.g. the difference between husband's and wife's age). Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. SR is the ratio of males to females in a given state-age-group-caste of the woman. Other Castes is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman is from a non SC/ST caste and 0 if it is. Using the sample married women questionnaire of DHS-2005. We control for women's religion dummies, whether the woman resides in a rural area. All regressions also include state, age-group and caste dummies. Caste groups are defined as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Other. The interaction term is a dummy that takes values 1 if a woman belongs to the category other caste. Age-group dummies are 5-year bins groups starting from 15-19 to 45-49. Joint-decision making is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman has any say in the husband decision over his income and 0 otherwise; controlling is a measure of controlling behaviour that takes values 1 if the husband exhibits any of the following behaviours:the husband is jealous if respondent talks with other men; husband accuses respondent of unfaithfulness; husband does not permit respondent to meet her girlfriends; husband tries to limit respondent's contact with family; husband insists on knowing where respondent is; husband doesn't trust respondent with money. Any IPV and IPV are an index and a dichotomous measure of self-reported incidence of domestic violence as defined in Appendix- Table ???. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Table 17: Marriage quality as a function of sex ratio- disaggregated measures of Intimate-Partner Violence with effects by Non- Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe

| | (1) | | (2) | | (3) | | (4) | | (5) | | (6) | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Emotional Index | | Physical Index | | Sexual Index | | Emotional | | Physical | | Sexual | |
| Post*Other Castes*SR | 0.197* | (0.109) | 0.573* | (0.277) | 0.466* | (0.225) | 0.112* | (0.055) | 0.124 | (0.116) | 0.634 | (0.397) |
| Other Castes* SR | -0.089 | (0.073) | -0.434** | (0.193) | -0.315* | (0.155) | -0.070 | (0.047) | -0.130 | (0.081) | -0.598** | (0.289) |
| Post*SR | 0.091 | (0.187) | 0.967* | (0.498) | 0.765* | (0.390) | 0.117 | (0.101) | 0.241 | (0.164) | 1.059** | (0.467) |
| Observations | 53,074 | | 53,075 | | 53,075 | | 53,073 | | 53,065 | | 53,064 | |
| Controls | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | |
| State FE | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | |
| Age-Group FE | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | |
| Caste FE | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | |

Notes: The dependent variables are measures of intimate-partner violence by domains: emotional, physical and sexual. Post is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman was born after 1980 and 0 otherwise. SR is the ratio of males to females in a given state-age-group-caste of the woman. Other Castes is a dummy that takes values 1 if the woman is from a non SC/ST caste and 0 if it is. For each measure we present an index and a dichotomous measure of self-reported incidence of domestic violence as defined in Appendix- Table ???. Using the sample married women questionnaire of DHS-2005. In Panel A we control for women's religion dummies, whether the woman resides in a rural area and in Panel B we also control for women's educational attainment. All regressions include state, age-group and caste dummies. Caste groups are defined as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Other. Age-group dummies are 5-year bins groups starting from 15-19 to 45-49. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Table 18: Attitudes Towards Intimate-Partner Violence by Marriage Status

| | Men | | Women | |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Index | Binary | Index | Binary |
| Married | 0.214*** (0.030) | 0.071*** (0.011) | 0.485*** (0.060) | 0.138*** (0.013) |
| N | 47,879 | 47,879 | 90,645 | 90,645 |

The dependent variable is a dummy that takes values 1 if an individual tolerates physical abuse under each of the 5 domains. The dependent variables are obtain from the DHS questions: “Do you justify wife-beating if...”: i) ...she goes out without telling you?; ii) ...neglects the children?; iii) argues?; iii) ... she refuses to have sex? and, v) ...she burns the food?, respectively for columns (1)-(5). We present results using the index and binary measures as defined in the text. Married is a dummy that takes values one if the individual is married or not. All specifications control religion dummies, an indicator for rural/urban household, education attainment dummies (no education is the omitted category) and household wealth index. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the state-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***, ** and *.

Appendix C: Instrumental variables

We explore instrumenting the youth sex ratio with the availability of ultrasound, which [Bhalotra and Cochrane \(2010\)](#) argue was driven by exogenous changes in import and licensing regulations. The first post-ultrasound cohorts, born in the mid-1980s have matured to age 20-24 by the census of 2011. However, although we see a strong trend in the 0-4 sex ratio in the three decades since the mid-80s, because we use the 20-24 sex ratio, we have only one post-ultrasound cohort in our data. Also district variation in ultrasound availability will be endogenous (a function of demand for sex-selective abortion), so the exogenous variation in availability of ultrasound is at the national level. As a result, the power of this potential instrument is weak. We explored interactions of an indicator for post-ultrasound cohorts with an indicator for the Northwest of the country, known to have stronger son preference ([Dyson and Moore, 1983](#); [Sen, 2003](#)). We also investigated alternative instruments, motivated by previous work. These include rainfall shocks ([Rose, 1999](#)), gold price shocks ([Bhalotra et al., 2016](#)) and prices of rice and wheat weighted by land area under these crops ([Basu, 1992](#); [Bardhan, 1974](#)), all measured in the birth years of the cohorts who are 20-24 years old in each census year. However we continued to face a weak instruments problem. Although we have multiple instruments, the first-stage results reveal that we have a weak instruments problem with an F-statistic well below 10 (bottom panel of Table [19](#), [20](#) and [21](#)). Nonetheless, we observe a positive and significant coefficient on the instrumented youth sex ratio for violence against women in the second-stage estimates. However, these estimates are imprecise and we do not rely upon them. Results are below in Tables [19- 21](#).

Table 19: **2SLS Estimates - Set of Instruments 1**

| Second-Stage Dep. Var | (1) Total | (2) Against Women | (3) Non-gender based | (4) Property | (5) Economics |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| SR 20-24 | 1.613 (5.528) | 10.717 (7.252) | -4.366 (7.898) | -0.834 (6.292) | 8.526 (5.806) |
| First-Stage Dep. Var.: | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 |
| Rainfall | -0.008 (0.010) | -0.008 (0.010) | -0.008 (0.010) | -0.008 (0.010) | -0.008 (0.010) |
| Rice | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) |
| Wheat | 0.002 (0.003) | 0.002 (0.003) | 0.002 (0.003) | 0.002 (0.003) | 0.002 (0.003) |
| D.Rainfall | 0.016* (0.009) | 0.016* (0.009) | 0.016* (0.009) | 0.016* (0.009) | 0.016* (0.009) |
| D.Rice | 0.001 (0.004) | 0.001 (0.004) | 0.001 (0.004) | 0.001 (0.004) | 0.001 (0.004) |
| D. Wheat | -0.003 (0.005) | -0.003 (0.005) | -0.003 (0.005) | -0.003 (0.005) | -0.003 (0.005) |
| Post*Rainfall | 0.005 (0.007) | 0.005 (0.007) | 0.005 (0.007) | 0.005 (0.007) | 0.005 (0.007) |
| Post*Rice | -0.001 (0.001) | -0.001 (0.001) | -0.001 (0.001) | -0.001 (0.001) | -0.001 (0.001) |
| Post*Wheat | -0.000 (0.002) | -0.000 (0.002) | -0.000 (0.002) | -0.000 (0.002) | -0.000 (0.002) |
| Post*D.Rainfall | -0.014 (0.015) | -0.014 (0.015) | -0.014 (0.015) | -0.014 (0.015) | -0.014 (0.015) |
| Post*D.Rice | -0.002 (0.004) | -0.002 (0.004) | -0.002 (0.004) | -0.002 (0.004) | -0.002 (0.004) |
| Post*D.Wheat | -0.005 (0.006) | -0.005 (0.006) | -0.005 (0.006) | -0.005 (0.006) | -0.005 (0.006) |
| Kleibergen-Paap F-stat | 0.778 | 0.778 | 0.778 | 0.778 | 0.778 |
| N | 4,528 | 4,528 | 4,528 | 4,528 | 4,528 |
| Adj R-sq | 0.896 | 0.931 | 0.890 | 0.913 | 0.805 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Linear Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State-Year | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The top part of the table reports the second-stage estimates and the bottom panel reports first-stage results. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. All instruments are the 4-year moving average over the years of births of the 4 year bins sex ratio. For example in 1991 the sex ratio of the 20-24 is affected by conditions measured at birth over the period 1967-1971. The dependent variable is the log of the crime rate per capita. The set of instruments measured at birth are log of total rainfall, $price \times cultivatedarea$ of rice and wheat, the 1 year difference of these instruments and the interactions of with a dummy that takes values 1 for the birth years post 1980. We control for controlling for rural population, literacy rate, gender literacy gap, SC/ST share of the population and infant sex ratio. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** and *.

Table 20: **2SLS Estimates- Set of Instruments 2**

| Second-Stage Dep. Var | (1) Total | (2) Against Women | (3) Non-gender based | (4) Property | (5) Economics |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| SR 20-24 | -2.532 (5.069) | 1.768 (4.699) | -4.267 (6.019) | -1.291 (5.356) | 2.218 (5.107) |
| First-Stage- Dep Var | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 |
| Rainfall | -0.002 (0.008) | -0.002 (0.008) | -0.002 (0.008) | -0.002 (0.008) | -0.002 (0.008) |
| <i>Fertilizer_{Nitrogen}</i> | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) |
| <i>Fertilizer_{Phosphorus}</i> | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) | -0.000 (0.000) |
| <i>Fertilizer_{Potassium}</i> | 0.000 (0.000) | 0.000 (0.000) | 0.000 (0.000) | 0.000 (0.000) | 0.000 (0.000) |
| Rice | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) | 0.002 (0.002) |
| Wheat | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) |
| N | 4,599 | 4,599 | 4,599 | 4,599 | 4,599 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.896 | 0.946 | 0.890 | 0.913 | 0.834 |
| Kleibergen-Paap F-stat | 1.137 | 1.137 | 1.137 | 1.137 | 1.137 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Linear Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State-Year | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The top part of the table reports the second-stage estimates and the bottom panel reports first-stage results. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. All instruments are the 4-year moving average over the years of births of the 4 year bins sex ratio. For example in 1991 the sex ratio of the 20-24 is affected by conditions measured at birth over the period 1967-1971. The dependent variable is the log of crime rates per capita. The set of instruments measured at birth are *price* \times *quantities* sold of fertilizers nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium measured in Rs/ton. Fertilizer prices are controlled by the Government of India and are based on reported maximum sale prices of fertilizer compounds adjusted for the proportion of the nutrient present in each compound. We always control for district-specific linear trends, state-year dummies, district specific effects and year dummies in addition to controlling for rural population, literacy rate, gender literacy gap, SC/ST share of the population and infant sex ratio. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** or *.

Table 21: **2SLS Estimates - Set of Instruments 3**

| Second-Stage Dep. Var | (1) Total | (2) Against Women | (3) Non-gender based | (4) Property | (5) Economics |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| SR 20-24 | 3.313 (6.252) | 8.684 (8.828) | -1.906 (7.158) | -1.012 (7.585) | 12.479 (9.160) |
| First-Stage- Dep. Var. | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 | SR 20-24 |
| Rainfall | -0.006 (0.009) | -0.006 (0.009) | -0.006 (0.009) | -0.006 (0.009) | -0.006 (0.009) |
| Rice | 0.001 (0.002) | 0.001 (0.002) | 0.001 (0.002) | 0.001 (0.002) | 0.001 (0.002) |
| Wheat | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) | 0.001 (0.003) |
| D. Rainfall | 0.012 (0.009) | 0.012 (0.009) | 0.012 (0.009) | 0.012 (0.009) | 0.012 (0.009) |
| D. Rice | -0.001 (0.003) | -0.001 (0.003) | -0.001 (0.003) | -0.001 (0.003) | -0.001 (0.003) |
| D. Wheat | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.005 (0.005) | -0.005 (0.005) |
| N | 4,502 | 4,502 | 4,502 | 4,502 | 4,502 |
| Adj. R-sq. | 0.893 | 0.936 | 0.892 | 0.913 | 0.768 |
| Kleibergen-Paap F-stat | 0.507 | 0.507 | 0.507 | 0.507 | 0.507 |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Linear Trends | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State-Year | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: Top part of the table report IV estimates and the bottom panel reports first-stage results. SR is the (age-specific) sex ratio, males to females. All instruments are the 4-year moving average over the years of births of the 4 year bins sex ratio. For example in 1991 the sex ratio of the 20-24 is affected by conditions measured at birth over the period 1967-1971. The dependent variable is the log of crime rates per capita. The set of instruments measured at birth are log of total rainfall, $price \times cultivatedarea$ of rice and wheat and the 1 year difference of these instruments. We always control for district-specific linear trends, state-year dummies, district specific effects and year dummies in addition to controlling for rural population, literacy rate, gender literacy gap, SC/ST share of the population and infant sex ratio. Robust standard errors are in parenthesis and are clustered at the district-level. Significance values at 1,5 and 10% are shown by ***,** or *.

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