

Sir! I'd Rather Go to School Sir!

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- Introduction

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I

Introduction

- Would the fear of conscription in Iran entice the youth to get more education despite their will?

Why this is important

- Many governments in developing countries face threats to their stability.

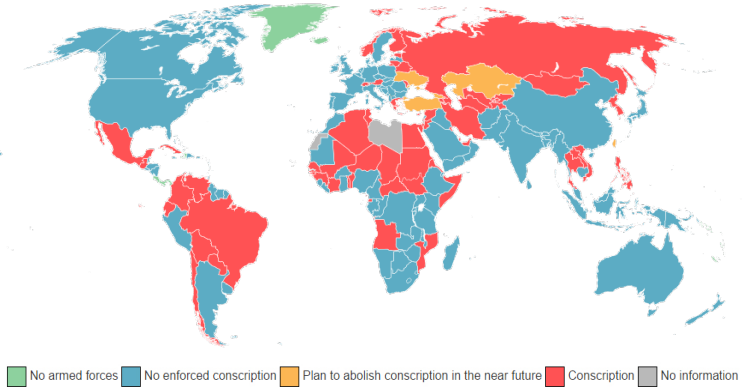
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- Many governments in developing countries face threats to their stability.
- Compulsory military service (CMS) is a cheap way to recruit for developing countries.
- The many consequences of the CMS on human capital, labor markets, and productivity is important for policy.

Figure: Military Service Law around the world



source: Wikipedia, "Conscription" entry.

- Card, David, and Thomas Lemieux (2001). “Going to College to Avoid the Draft: The Unintended Legacy of the Vietnam War.” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, pp 97:102.

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- Compare cohorts of men who were at risk of draft with same cohorts of women
- “... find a strong correlation between the risk of induction faced by a cohort and the relative enrollment and completed education of men.”

Military Service Law in Iran

- Every male who is 18 years old has to participate in the compulsory military service for about 21 months (18 is the age of eligibility).

Military Service Law in Iran

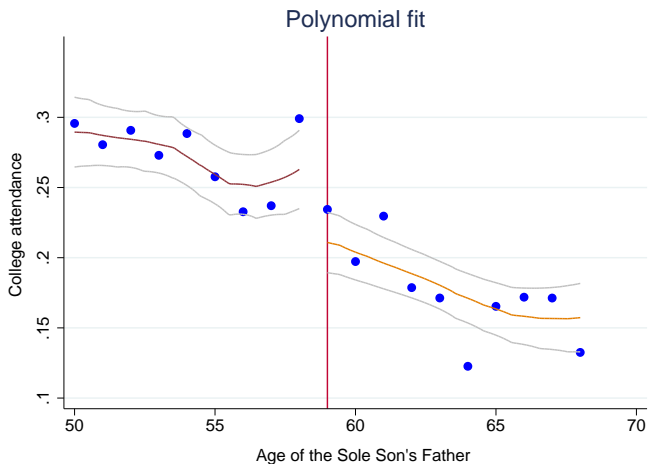
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Military Service Law in Iran

- Every male who is 18 years old has to participate in the compulsory military service for about 21 months (18 is the age of eligibility).
- But students can be temporarily exempted from the service until they leave school. They become eligible after leaving school.
- Sole sons whose fathers are 59 years old and above when they become eligible for military service can get full exemption from military service.

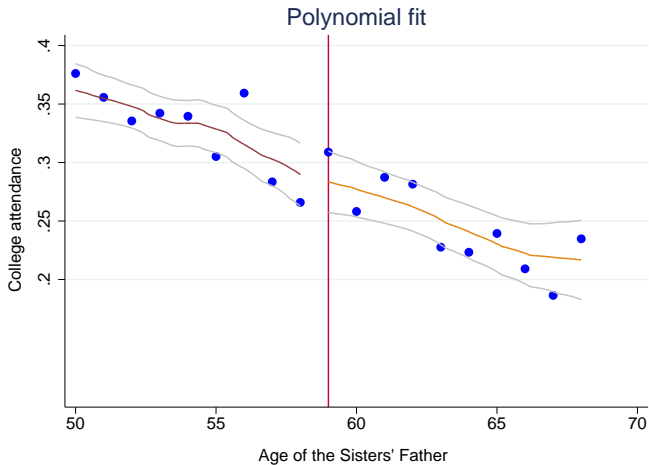
Preview of the Results

Figure: College Attendance Rate of Sole Sons



Note: The horizontal axis is the father's age when the sole son was 18.

Figure: College Attendance Rate of Sole Sons' Sisters



Note: The horizontal axis is the father's age when the sister of sole sons' sister was 18.

Preview of the Results

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- Sole sons whose father's age was below the threshold have about 5 to 7 percentage points more chance of getting a college or above education, than those whose fathers' age was above it.

Preview of the Results

- There is a discontinuity in education levels of sole sons at father's age of 59.
- Sole sons whose father's age was below the threshold have about 5 to 7 percentage points more chance of getting a college or above education, than those whose fathers' age was above it.
- The results are subject to measurement error.

II

Data

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- They were primarily collected to measure inflation (contain detailed expenditure but also demographics and income of household members living with the household.)
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- The rural areas are over-sampled.

- Identifying sole sons: only members who are living with the household are recorded. So measurement error.

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- But this is a problem on both sides of the threshold.

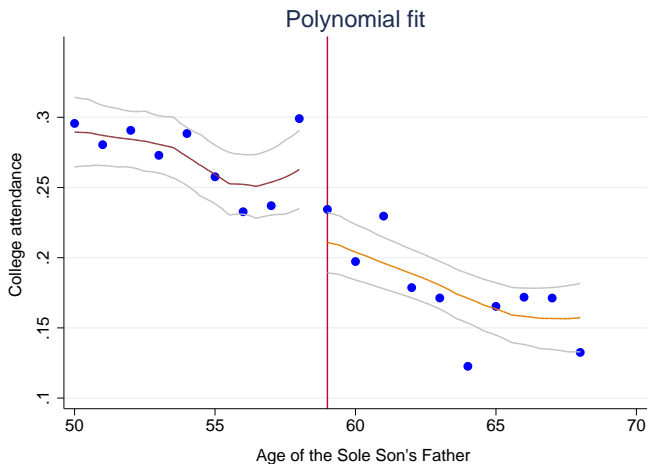
- Still selected, even if we identify sole sons correctly. Because they are sole sons who are still living with parents. True, but on both sides of the threshold.

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- To mitigate these problems, took those whose age is between 18 and 24.

III

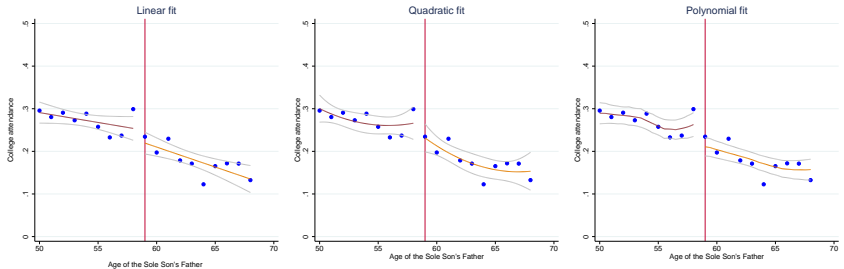
Evidence

Figure: College Attendance Rate of Sole Sons



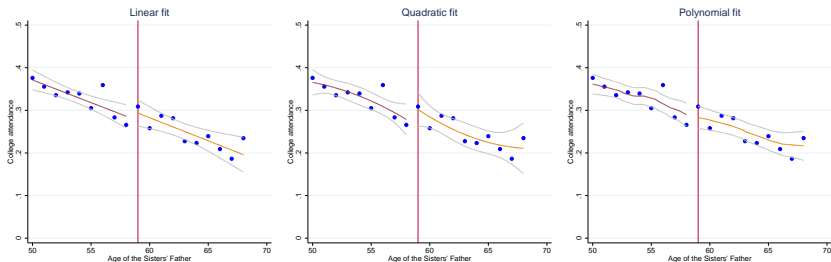
Note: The horizontal axis is the father's age when the sole son was 18.

Figure: College Attendance Rate of Sole Sons



Note: The horizontal axis is the father's age when the sole son was 18.

Figure: College Attendance Rate of Sole Sons' Sisters



Note: The horizontal axis is the father's age when the sole sons' sister was 18.

Table: Summary Statistics

Sole Sons	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	N
Father's age at 18*	58.2	5.3	50	68	13212
Age	21.0	2.0	18	24	13212
Urban	0.5	0.5	0	1	13212
College attendance	0.15	0.36	0	1	13207
Sole Sons' Sisters					
Father's age at 18*	57.3	5.2	50	68	14388
Age	20.4	1.9	18	24	14388
Urban	0.5	0.5	0	1	14388
College attendance	0.19	0.39	0	1	14387

Note: Father's age at 18 is the age of father of an individual when he/she was 18. Age is the age of the individual at the time of survey. Urban is a dummy equal to one if the individual lives in an urban area and zero otherwise. College attendance is a dummy variable equal to one if the individual attended college or higher levels of education and zero otherwise.

Table: Discontinuity in Education for Sole Sons

	All	Urban Areas		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
D	0.036** (0.017)	0.046* (0.027)	0.051 (0.043)	0.136** (0.069)
Polynomial order	1st	1st	2nd	3rd
R ²	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
N	9540	4598	4598	4598

Note: Sample only includes sole sons whose father's age when they were 18 was between 50 and 68. D is a dummy equal to one if a sole son's father's age is less than 59 when the son was 18 years old and zero otherwise. Robust-heteroskedastic standard errors clustered at the county-survey year are in parentheses.

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table: Discontinuity in Education for Sole Sons' Sisters

	All	Urban Areas		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
D	0.014 (0.015)	-0.027 (0.028)	-0.053 (0.045)	-0.079 (0.068)
Polynomial order	1st	1st	2nd	3rd
R ²	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
N	10774	5058	5058	5058

Note: Sample only includes sole sons' sisters whose father's age when they were 18 was between 50 and 68. D is a dummy equal to one if a sole son's father's age is less than 59 when the son's sister was 18 years old and zero otherwise. Robust-heteroskedastic standard errors clustered at the county-survey year are in parentheses.

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$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta D_i + \sum_{k=1}^l \gamma_k (p_i - 59)^k + \sum_{k=1}^l \delta_k D_i (p_i - 59)^k +$$
$$S_i \{ \alpha_s + \tau D_i + \sum_{k=1}^l \gamma_{ks} (p_i - 59)^k + \sum_{k=1}^l \delta_{ks} D_i (p_i - 59)^k \} + u_i,$$

Table: Discontinuity in College Attendance of Sole Sons in Urban Areas

	(1)	(2)	(3)
$D \times S$	0.073* (0.039)	0.104* (0.063)	0.216** (0.093)
Polynomial Order	1st	2nd	3rd
R ²	0.02	0.02	0.02
N	9656	9656	9656

Note: Regressions are based on Equation (1). Coefficient of $D \times S$ shows the Local Average Treatment Effect from a Diff-in-Disc regression. Robust-heteroskedastic standard errors are in parentheses.

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IV

Conclusion

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- Sole sons whose father's age was below the threshold have about 5 to 7 percentage points more chance of getting a college or above education, than those whose fathers' age was above it.

- Using DHS datasets of developing countries to answer the research question.

Thank you!