
CLASS SIZE: MAIMONIDES RULE

Slide 1

- Strong debate about impact school quality, in particular class size.
 - I.e Kremer (2002) argues that class size in Kenya is too small, could increase education by reallocating inputs (textbooks) or making school free (uniform, fee).
 - In the US: very contrasted results
 - Angrist-Lavy: Impact of class size on test scores in Israel
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DETERMINATION OF CLASS SIZE

Slide 2

- Small class size in poorer areas in Israel:
 - → class size negatively correlated with test score.
 - Rule inspired from Maimonides (talmudic scholar) determines class size
 - up to 39, one teacher, 40-79, 2 teachers, etc....
 - Generates seesaw in predicted student teacher ratio.
 - Some variation around that, but generally quite tight.
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IDENTIFICATION STRATEGY AND RESULTS

Slide 3

- Idea: school with 39 students in a divisions should not be very different from school with 40 student in a division, but student-teacher ratio drops suddenly.
 - Do we see the same for tests score? See Figure: test score as a function of student per division.
 - Generalization: use predicted class size as an instrument for actual class size, after controlling for smooth function of number of pupil per divisions (square, cubics etc...).
 - Find significant improvements in tests scores: a decrease of 10 in the pupil/teacher ratio increases reading scores by 2.5 points (from an average of 72 points)
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