Assignment 2

ECO324H5: Economic Development

1 Girls' Aspirations [60 points]

The dataset aspirations.dta is from the paper by Beaman et al. (2009). In class, we studied the original paper on the effects of random exposure to female leaders on voters' perceptions and stereotypes. In a follow-up study, *Female Leadership Raises Aspirations and Educational Attainment for Girls: A Policy Experiment in India*, the authors study the impact of the policy on girls' aspirations. Please get familiar with both papers.

(a) What is the reasoning behind the idea that exposure to female leaders could change girls' aspirations? [4 points]

Answer: role models. By being exposed to female politicians girl could change their level of aspirations. On the one hand, they would decrease the stereotypes that related gender to leadership occupations. Likewise, female politicians can also inspire girls to have higher goals regarding their education attainment and job opportunities.

(b) What is the proportion of teenage girls and the proportion of teenage boys that want to get married before 18 years old? What do you think could explain these gender differences? [4 points]