

"A man is  
great by  
deeds, not by  
birth"

-Chanakya

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**What's in a name: Does your name on home ownership or rental papers matter?**

**Chitwan Lalji<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Economics Area, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, IIMK Campus PO, India, Kunnamangalam, Kozhikode, Kerala 673 570, India; Email - [chitwan@iimk.ac.in](mailto:chitwan@iimk.ac.in), Phone - (+91) 495 - 2809251

## **What's in a name: Does your name on home ownership or rental papers matter?**

**Abstract:** The India Human Development Survey (2004-05 and 2011-12) data indicates that around 17% of women have their names on home ownership or rental papers. Existing literature suggests that women's name in property empowers her. In the current paper, we plan to see whether women's name in home ownership or rental papers helps improve her health outcomes (such as incidence of underweight) and whether it empowers her (through indicators such as higher say in household decisions namely, decision to buy expensive items, decision on number of children and decision on children's wedding). For this purpose, we use the two rounds of the IHDS data – 2004-05 and 2011-12. We find higher incidence of underweight among women whose name is not there on home ownership or rental papers. Furthermore, women whose name is there on home ownership or rental papers have higher say in the household decisions (relative to their counterparts).

Research Office  
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode  
IIMK Campus P. O.,  
Kozhikode, Kerala, India,  
PIN - 673 570  
Phone: +91-495-2809238  
Email: [research@iimk.ac.in](mailto:research@iimk.ac.in)  
Web: <https://iimk.ac.in/faculty/publicationmenu.php>

