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14.74 Foundations of Development Policy
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14.74 Presentations

Each of you is required to present to the class on a topic that interests you in development. You may work in a group of two or individually. The talk should be 5 minutes long, and if you work in a group, both students should take the opportunity to speak.

Presentations will take place on **Ses #15 and Ses #16**. The presentation schedule will be distributed on Ses #13, and students will be randomly assigned to one of the dates. In addition to the presentation, please hand in either (a) a two-page summary of your topic OR (b) detailed slides from your presentation. The summary or slides are due on the day that you present.

You may choose your own partner for this presentation. **You must e-mail the course teaching assistant by Ses #12 with your choice of partner and topic.** If you are unable to find a partner, e-mail the teaching assistant and list 2 or 3 topics that interest you, and let her know if you would prefer to work alone or with a partner. She will assign matches to the remaining students who would like partners.

Here are the guidelines for the talk and written summary:

- 1) Choose a topic that interests you from the syllabus (Nutrition, Education, Health, Gender Discrimination, Bargaining in Families, Gender in Politics, Savings, Land, Insurance, Credit Markets, Formal and Informal Institutions, Corruption)
- 2) Read at least three papers on the topic that you have chosen.
- 3) Identify a problem *and* a possible underlying cause. (Examples of problems: why do poor people have poor nutrition? Why are health services underutilized? Why do credit institutions not serve the poor, or charge such high interest rates when they do?)
- 4) Brainstorm at least three possible programs that could mitigate the problem you have chosen by affecting the channel you identified.
- 5) Choose the program you have thought of that sounds most promising to you, and describe it in some detail. How would you implement it? Who would be the target audience? How would you encourage take-up of the program? What do you expect the effect to be?
- 6) Describe how you would evaluate the program. Would you use a randomized evaluation or some other technique? Who would comprise the treatment and control groups? At what level would you randomize or assign treatment? What data would you collect? What are the relevant outcome variables?

In your talk, you should clearly outline the topic, problem, and cause. Describe the program you think may address the problem. Explain clearly why you think it meets a potential need and how it could lead to improvement in the lives of the poor.

The summary write-up or slides should provide a written description of the steps outlined below. In particular, list the 3 papers you have read. Describe the problem and the potential cause you have identified. List your three possible approaches to solving it. Describe the most promising program in more detail.