



Working Paper

IIMK/WPS/441/ECO/2021/05

March 2021

Does salary dispersion affect team performance in cricket? Evidence from the Indian Premier League

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Abstract:

We examine salary disparity and team performance using data from 11 seasons of the

Indian Premier League (IPL) between 2008 – 2019. Research on corporate pay structures

and professional team sports organisations has examined salary disparity and its

ramifications, but the case of cricket is less explored, particularly in relation to team

performance. We study the world's largest cricket league, viz. IPL that imposes hard

budget caps making pay disparities more likely. We find evidence for equity pay theory

according to which salary disparity cripples group harmony and team performance by

creating a perception of inequality and jealousy among employees.

Keywords: Tournament theory, Equity theory, Twenty20 cricket, Indian Premier League,

Dynamic panel estimation

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