

Discussion

Male migration and women empowerment: the case of Samoa

Session 3: FDI, Migration, and Remittances

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Noel B. Del Castillo

Consultant, Pacific Department

Summary

- Impact of husband out-migration on women employment and empowerment:
 - ✓ Male absence
 - ✓ Remittance flows
- Used SAM's first Demographic and Health – Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
 - ✓ DHS conducted every 5 years; integrated with MICS for the first time
 - ✓ October 2019 – February 2020 (lengthier gathering due to measles outbreak)
- Labor out-migration by husbands improved indicators relating to women's empowerment.

Topic, methodology, and estimation results

- Highly-relevant topic
 - SAM: one of the small countries with highest emigration rates in the world (D'Aiglepierre et al. 2020)
 - Remittances a major contributor to SAM economy
 - Economically active: male = 71%; **female = 29%** (Samoa Bureau of Statistics and UNFPA 2020)
 - Burden on unpaid care work on SAM women is higher than regional average (SBS and UNFPA 2020)
- Using logistic regression
 - Which type?
 - What is the base outcome used in interpreting results?
 - Need to specify if coefficients are odds ratio, marginal effects, or logit coefficient
- Issue of endogeneity: how was it addressed?
 - What is/are the omitted variable bias?
 - Simultaneity bias: (1) empowerment variable; (2) employment/income variable—husband decision may depend on employment status of wife/household income
- Possible impact of measles outbreak on the survey

Areas to explore

- Insignificance of employment work—is it because women have to take care of the children as well?
- Level of remittance – does it affect women outcomes as well? (i.e. higher remittance—lower incentive to work)
- Need to provide more discussion on possible policy implication/s
- Further extension: impact of women labor migration to gender roles in the household and overall household welfare

Thank you!