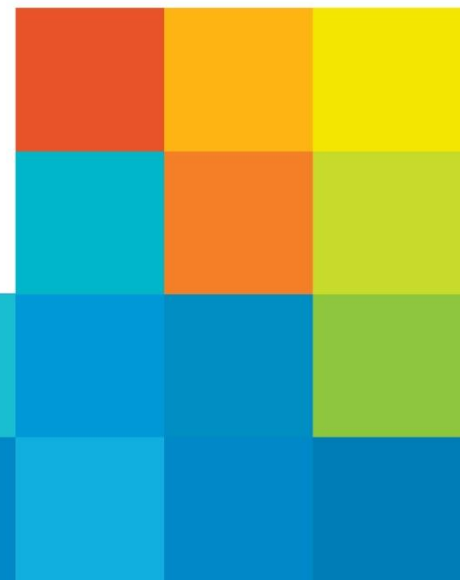


Male migration and Women empowerment: The Case of Samoa

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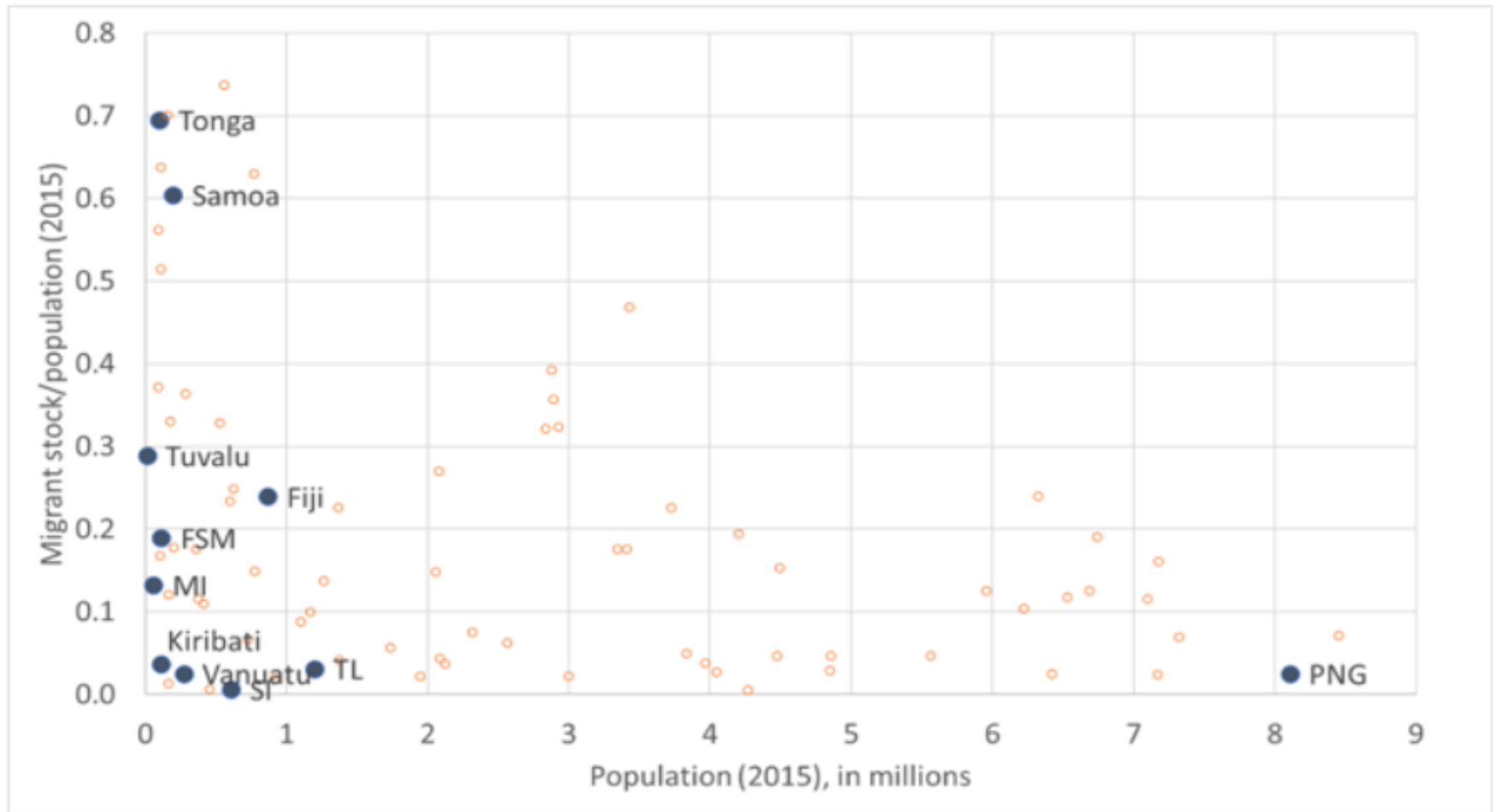
Pacific Island Economies, Technical workshop, April 25-26th 2023



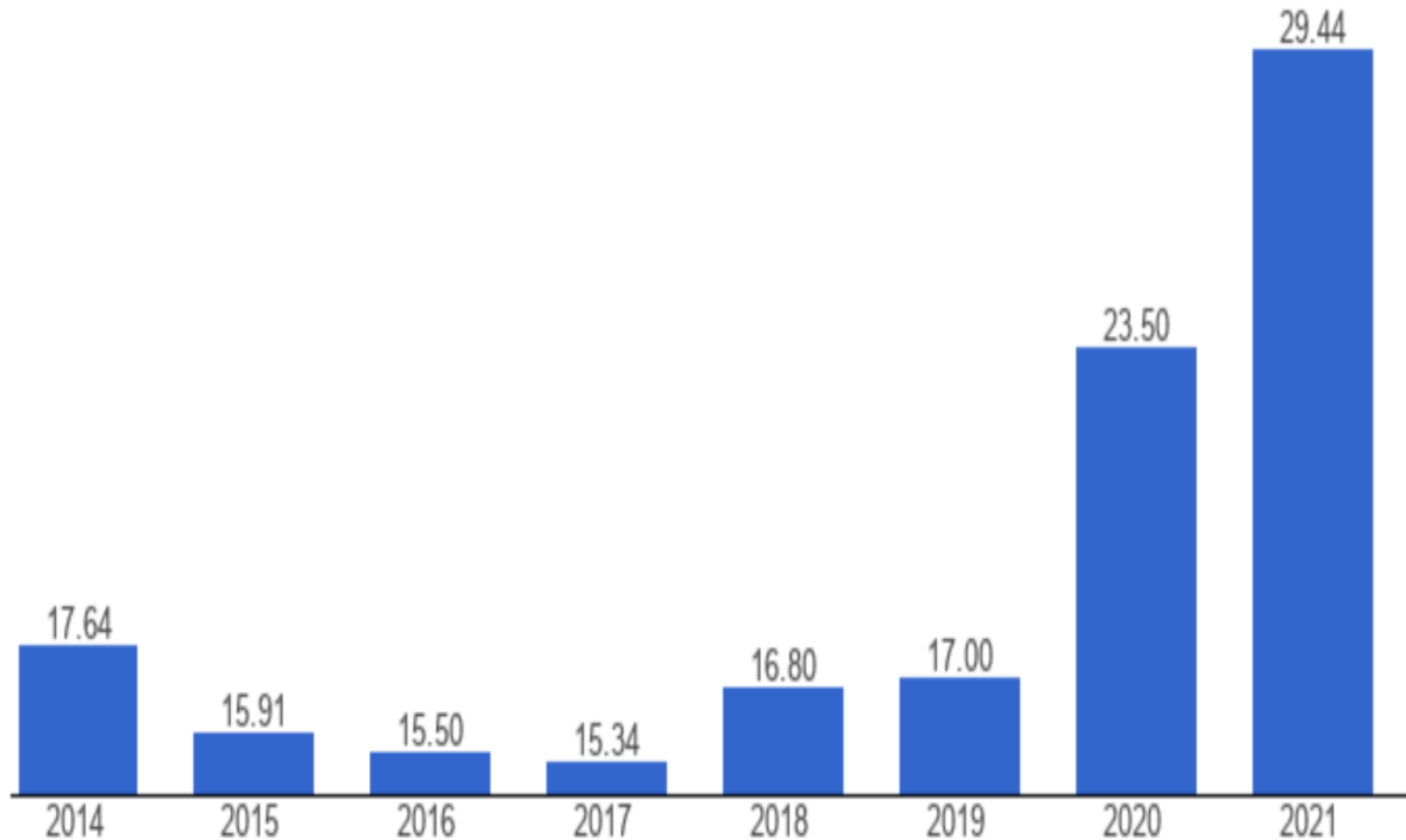
Outline

- Background
- Mechanisms
- Literature Review
- Data
- Empirical Strategy and Primary findings
- Conclusion

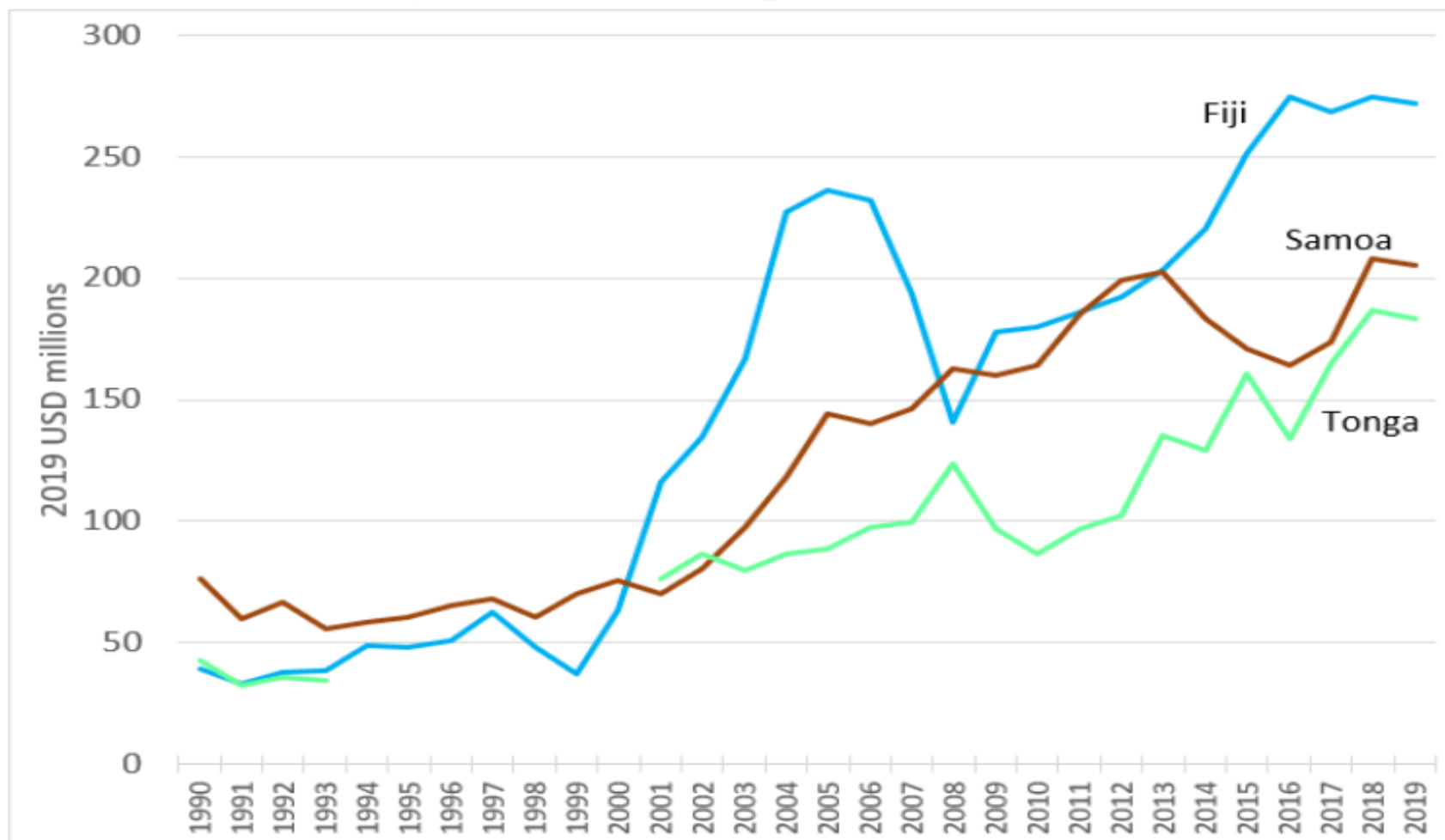
Background: Migrant stock/population and population in 2015



Background: Samoa, Remittances, percent of GDP



Remittances into Fiji, Samoa and Tonga (in 2019 constant USD millions)



Samoa, the second largest recipients of remittances(after Fiji), saw inflows of approximately US \$200 million in 2019.

Mechanism

- Male outmigration affects women's employment and empowerment through
 - 1. Male absence:
 - Intra-household adjustment of available labor hours
 - Potential increase in wage due to shortage of workers, which draws in women to the labor market
 - Enhance intra-household bargaining power
 - 2. Remittances:
 - Remittances would pull them out of the labor market or ease liquidity constraints to start small business
 - Enhance intra-household bargaining power

Male outmigration and women's employment

- Negative effect on women's labor force participation: in Nepal (Lokshin and Glinkskaya, 2009), and Nicaragua (Funkhouser, 1992)
- Women's share of agricultural labor force and workload increases in Nepal (Slavchevska, Kaaria and Saana-Liisa, 2016), and in Sri Lanka (Jayaweera and Dias, 2009)
- Increase in self-employment (Arouri and Nguyen, 2018) and non-wage activities (Binzel and Assaad, 2011) in Egypt, Philippines (Yang, 2008), Albania (Mendola and Carletto, 2012)

Literature Review: Women's Empowerment

Male outmigration and women's empowerment

- Kar et al. (2018): Improvement in women empowerment indicators such as decision-making role in households, holding financial account, group membership in Nepal
- Improvements in decision-making power as they had to manage male workers in farms in Guatemala (Stanley, 2015)
- Positive effect seen in Bangladesh (Debnath and Selim, 2009) and in Nepal (Maharjan, Bauer and Kneer, 2012)
- No effect on empowerment in India (Sinha, Jha and Negi, 2012) and Morocco (de Hass and Rooij, 2010)

- Samoa DHS-MICS 2019 - 2020
 - Nationally representative survey
 - Includes modules for women empowerment and women employment
- **Employment outcomes:** type of work including working for someone else, self-employed and looking for a job.
- **Empowerment outcomes:** decisions making (final say in own health care, freedom to visit family or relatives, household purchases, decisions on earnings), marital control, emotional violence, life satisfaction
- Controls: women education, husband's education, age, area, number of children and household size.
- Sample restricted to married women

Data and Summary Statistics (1)

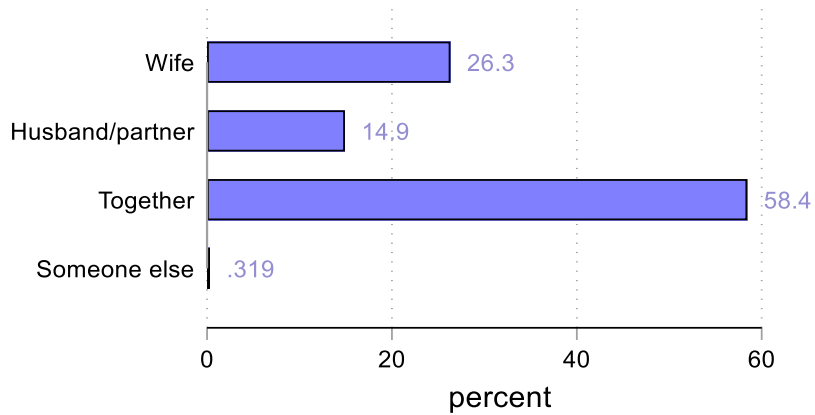
Variables	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.
Husband outmigration	2391	.148	.355
Husband abroad	2391	.063	.243
Husband in another region	2391	.086	.281
Women employment			
Working	2391	.238	.426
Employee	2391	.186	.389
Employer	2391	.029	.167
Looking for a job	2391	.018	.134
Self-employed	2391	.023	.15
Decision making			
How husband earning will be used	2137	.249	.433
About own healthcare	2137	.26	.439
Major household purchases	2137	.101	.302
Daily household purchases	2137	.298	.457
Visit relatives	2137	.153	.36
Marital control			
Jealous if wife talked to other man	1355	.296	.457
Frequently accused wife of being unfaithful	1355	.294	.456
Not permit to meet female friends	1355	.124	.33
Limit contact with family	1355	.055	.227
Insist on knowing where she is at all times	1355	.73	.444
Not allow to join any social functions	1355	.263	.441
Numbers of controlling behaviors	1355	1.762	1.427

Data and Summary Statistics (2)

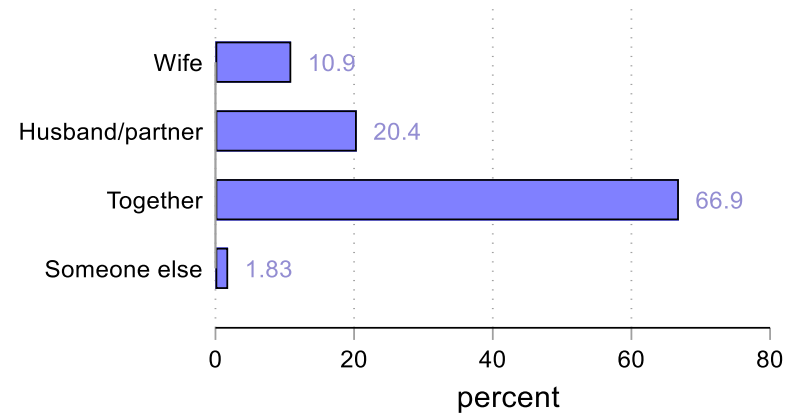
Variables	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.
Emotional violence			
Any emotional violence	1355	.043	.202
Say or do something to humiliate	1355	.152	.359
Threaten to hurt or harm you or	1355	.077	.266
Insult you or make you feel bad	1355	.119	.324
Life satisfaction			
Life satisfaction in comparison with last year	2391	1.133	.346
Life satisfaction expectation one year from now	2391	1.091	.298
Control variables			
Wealth score	2391	-.121	.962
Women education	2391	3.245	.502
Husband education, Secondary	2391	.501	.5
Household size	2391	9.025	4.47
Number of children	2391	2.752	1.588
Age of husband/partner	2139	22.184	9.669

Decision-making

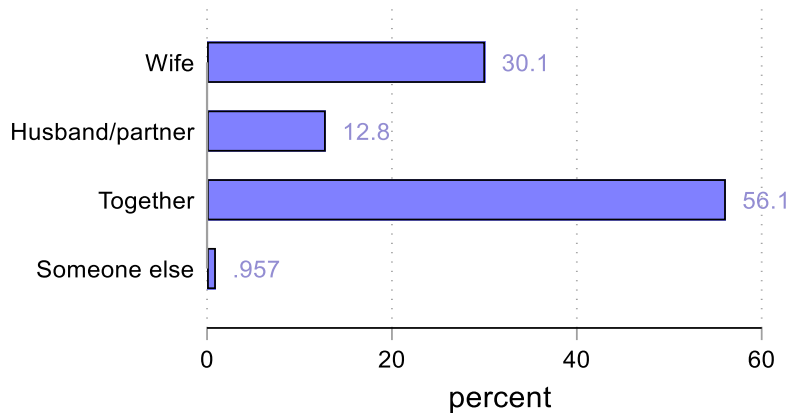
Own healthcare



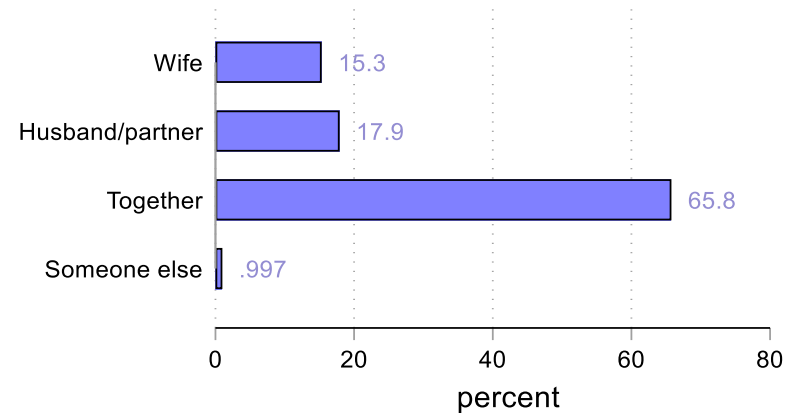
Major household purchases



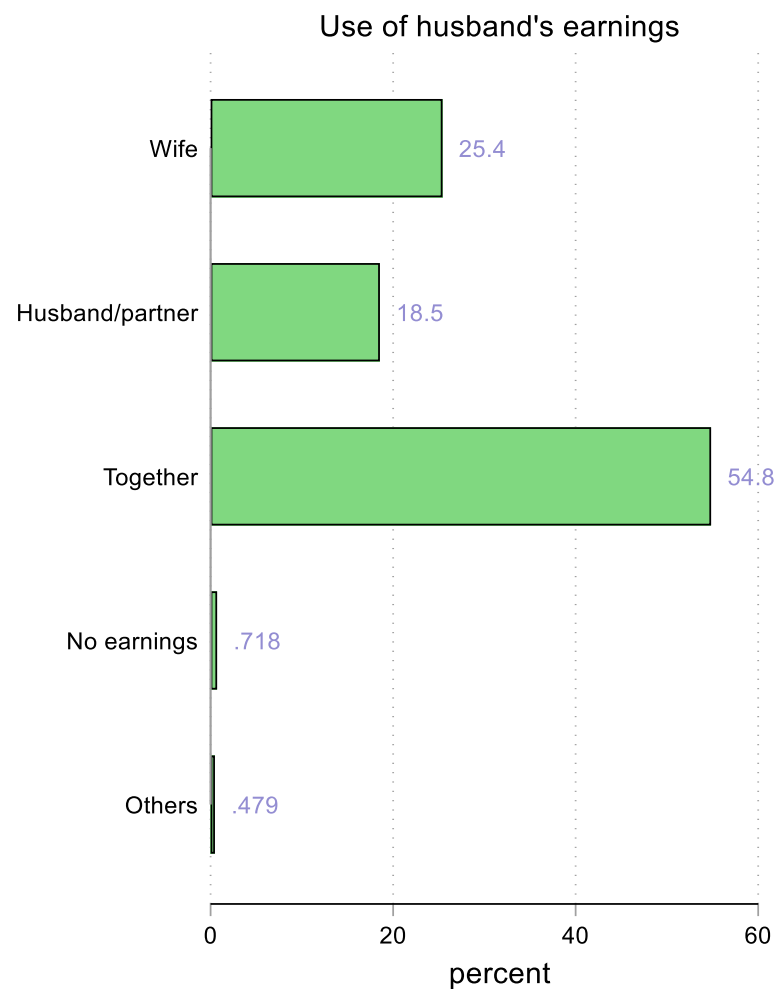
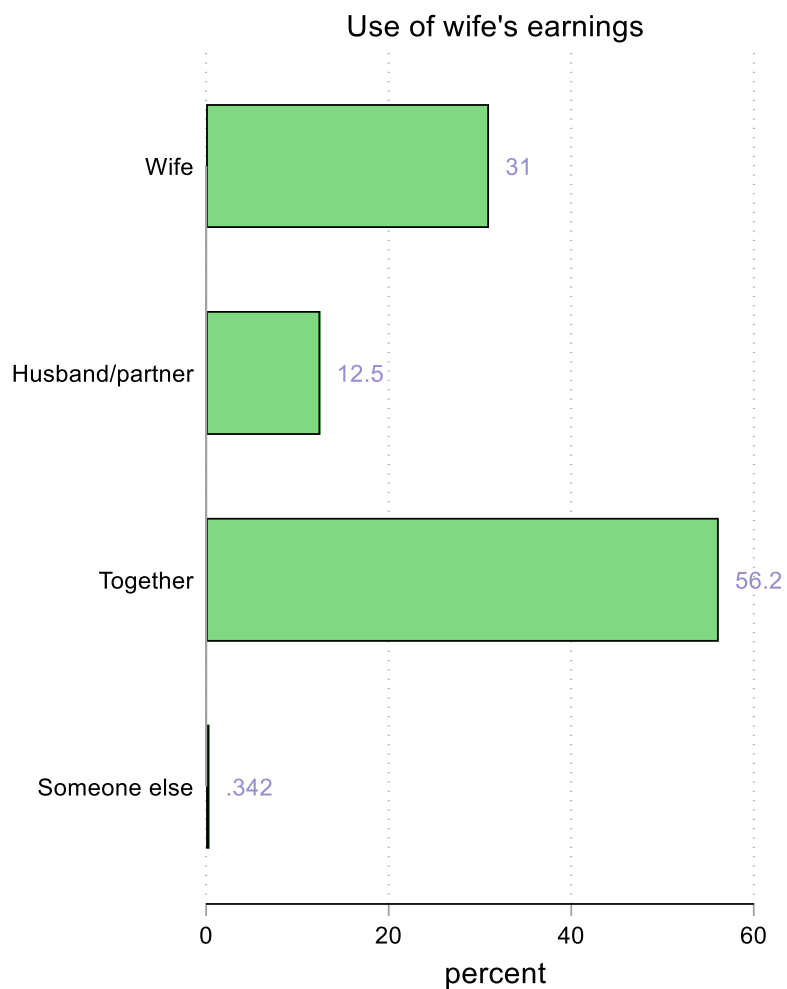
Daily household purchases



Visit to relatives



Who decides ?



Estimation strategy

$$Y_{ih} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 M_{ih} + \theta X_{ih} + \varepsilon_{ih}$$

Y_{ih} is an outcome variable for woman i in household h

M_{ih} indicates that women i is living in household h with husband migrant at the time of the survey

X_{ih} is a set of control variables

Husband migration could be **endogenous**

- *Omitted variable bias* could confound estimates due to unobserved individual-level characteristics or local economic conditions
- *Simultaneity bias* if women's decision-making power over household resources affect the probability that their husbands migrate

Primary findings (1)

Dependent variables	work	employer	employee	self employ	job looking
Husband outmigration	0.00466 (0.0353)	0.0214** (0.0103)	-0.0271 (0.0276)	0.00580 (0.0110)	-0.00392 (0.00881)
Other controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,139	2,139	2,139	2,139	2,139

	Wife decides how husband earning will be used	Final say in own healthcare	Household main purchases	Household daily purchases	Final say on visit to relatives
Husband outmigration	0.172*** (0.0252)	0.100*** (0.0273)	0.0824*** (0.0170)	0.104*** (0.0318)	0.109*** (0.0228)
Other controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,137	2,137	2,137	2,137	2,137

Dependent variables are binary. Logit models are used. Standard errors clustered at the household level are reported in parentheses. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$; Other controls include wealth, age of women, age of husband, women education, husband's education, number of children, household size

Primary findings (2)

	Frequently accused wife of being unfaithful	Not permit to meet female friends	Limit contact with family	Insist on knowing where she is at all times	Not allow to join any social functions
Husband					
outmigration	0.0925 (0.0607)	-0.0187 (0.0309)	-0.0729 (0.0511)	0.135** (0.0536)	-0.148*** (0.0553)
Other controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	1,287	1,287	1,287	1,287	1,287

	Expect to be happier next year	More satisfied with life than last year	Emotional violence	Say/do sth to humiliate wife in front of others	Threaten to hurt or harm her of someone she cares about	Insult her or make her feel bad about herself
Husband						
outmigration	0.00756 (0.0225)	-0.0249 (0.0269)	-0.0226 (0.0241)	0.00446 (0.0383)	-0.00390 (0.0301)	-0.0331 (0.0320)
Other controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,139	2,139	1,287	1,287	1,287	1,287

Conclusion

- Examined the link between husband migration on women's employment and empowerment
- Absence of men in households enhanced women's empowerment.
- Findings show that married women in households with male outmigrants are more likely to be employer, and more likely to report having a final say on their own healthcare issues, visit to relatives, and making decisions on household purchases

THANK YOU!