

Eradicating Violence against Women

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Acknowledgements

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Colleagues

Family

Ongoing (Preliminary) Projects on Gender and Development

1. Sex Trafficking of Children in Bangladesh

(with Naoshi Doi, Kenmei Tsubota, and Md. Sanaul Haque Mondal)

2. Acid Attacks in Bangladesh

(with Md. Sanaul Haque Mondal)

3. Comics as an Edutainment for Gender Norms: Experimental Evidence from India

(with Mai Seki, Etienne Gagnon, and Kengo Igei)

Sex Trafficking of Children in Bangladesh

(with Naoshi Doi, Kenmei Tsubota, and Md. Sanaul Haque Mondal)

Why Should We Care?

- A serious humanitarian problem at a global scale.
Globally, 1.1 million trafficking victims are exploited in the commercial sex industry (ILO 2005).
Included in the policy goals of SDGs.

What Do We Know about Human Trafficking?

1. Determinants of victims' inflow and outflow across countries.
2. Psychological consequences of victimization (Artadi, Björkman Nyqvist, Kuecken, & La Ferrara 2018).

2 Remaining Issues in the Literature

1. The policy interventions to eradicate trafficking are not well understood (Lee & Persson 2022).
2. Lack of representative data. Previous studies rely on the data from rescued victims, causing the sample selection.

Goal

- The impact of allowing/prohibiting adult prostitution on the prevalence and the flow of trafficked child sex workers in Bangladesh.
- This study estimates a structural model of profit-maximizing trafficking syndicates, so that it allows the spillover effects of policy change in a district to the whole country.

The Model

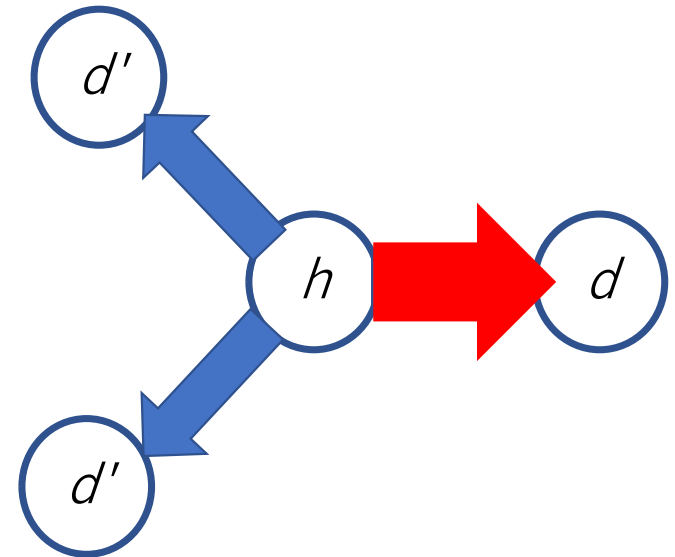
Assumptions

1. Trafficking syndicates maximize their profits by transporting goods (girls) across districts.
2. Homogeneous goods and a competitive market
3. The cost of trafficking girls from district h to d increases with the total victims trafficked in h (e.g., more difficult to find and deceive attractive girls) → Spillover effects

Spillover of policy impact

District d allows adult prostitution

- Increasing the demand for and price of victims in d
- Increasing the supply of girls from h to d
- Increasing the supply cost in h
- Decreasing the supply of girls from h to d'

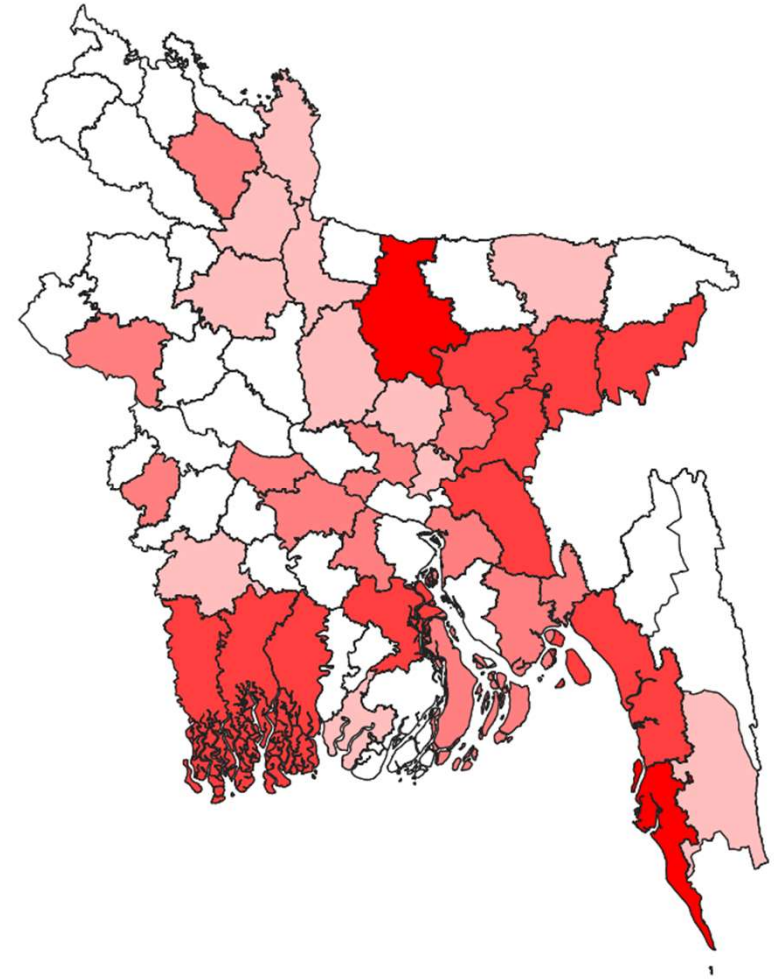


Data

Challenge: Availability of representative data on the flow and price of victims

- We use a nationally representative survey of child sex workers in Bangladesh, 2008 (Shoji & Tsubota 2022).
- Data on their (1) home and working districts and (2) the extent of exploitation by their owners.
- 40% of respondents are defined as a victim.
- The transportation pattern of each victim
- Aggregating the data as district-level dyadic data, we quantify **the flow of trafficking victims who are still exploited in the sex industry.**
(Most trafficked girls are forced to engage in sex work.)

Home District of Trafficking Victims



Estimation

Cost Function (N=2760 district-level dyads)

$$\log q_{hd} = p_d \beta_1 + \log Q_{hd} \beta_2 + X_h \beta_3 + X_d \beta_4 + Z_{hd} \beta_5 + \varepsilon_{hd}$$

q_{hd} : the number of victims trafficked from district h to d

p_d : price of victims in d (instrumented)

Q_{hd} : the number of victims trafficked from h to the districts other than d (instrumented)

X_h, X_d, Z_{hd} : the strictness of prohibiting adult prostitution in h and d , and controls

$$\beta_1 > 0 \quad (p < 0.001)$$

$$\beta_2 < 0 \quad (p = 0.045)$$

Demand Function (N=46 districts)

$$Q_d = p_d \delta_1 + X_d \delta_2 + \varepsilon_d$$

Q_d : the total victims trafficked to d

$$\delta_1 < 0 \quad (p = 0.045)$$

Simulation: Strict Prohibition of Adult Prostitution

Exogenous variations in the strictness of prohibiting prostitution across districts?

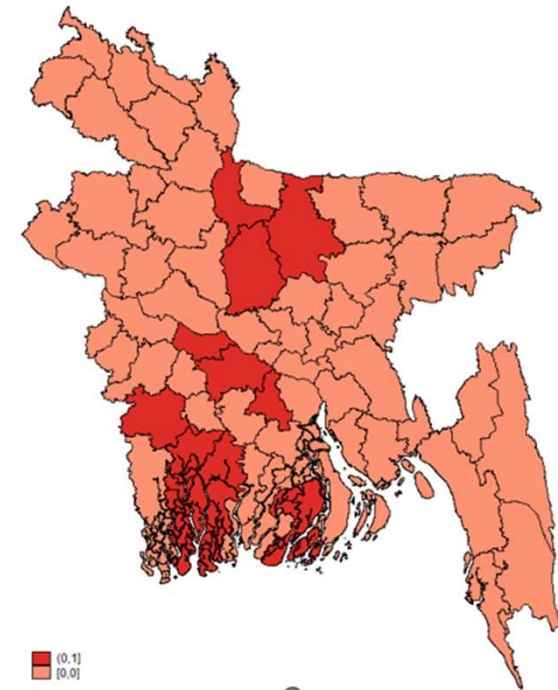
- In Bangladesh, prostitution is strictly prohibited except for sex workers **in historical brothel areas**.
- The brothel areas were established in port cities during **the British colonial period**.
- The location of brothel areas (located in 10 districts) is **plausibly exogenous conditional on the proximity to ports**.
- The socioeconomic conditions do not differ between the districts.

Counterfactual Scenarios

Changes in **the number of trafficking victims in the country** and its **distribution across districts** under 3 counterfactual scenarios:

1. All brothel areas are closed
2. Allow brothels only in the districts satisfying a certain condition
3. All districts allow brothel areas

Location of Brothel Areas



Simulation Results

Coming soon...



Acid Attacks in Bangladesh

(with Md. Sanaul Haque Mondal)

Acid Attacks?

- A form of violence, in which acid is thrown at a person.
- Most victims are women, while perpetrators are men (Violence against Women).
- No rigorous evidence on the socio-economic causes or consequences of attacks in the literature.

Goal

- The impact of **media report** of the attacks on the gender attitude of women **in Bangladesh**.

Why Should We Care about Media Report in Bangladesh?

- In Bangladesh, mass media reports pics of victims to promote awareness of the attacks.
 - Positive Effects:** Recent literature on the role of media in gender norms (Banerjee, La Ferrara, & Orozco 2019; Jensen & Oster 2009).
 - Negative Effects:** Women may be scared to see the pics and perceive that women should follow men.
- In Bangladesh, the death penalty can be imposed for perpetrators, but around 50 attacks are still reported every year. Why?

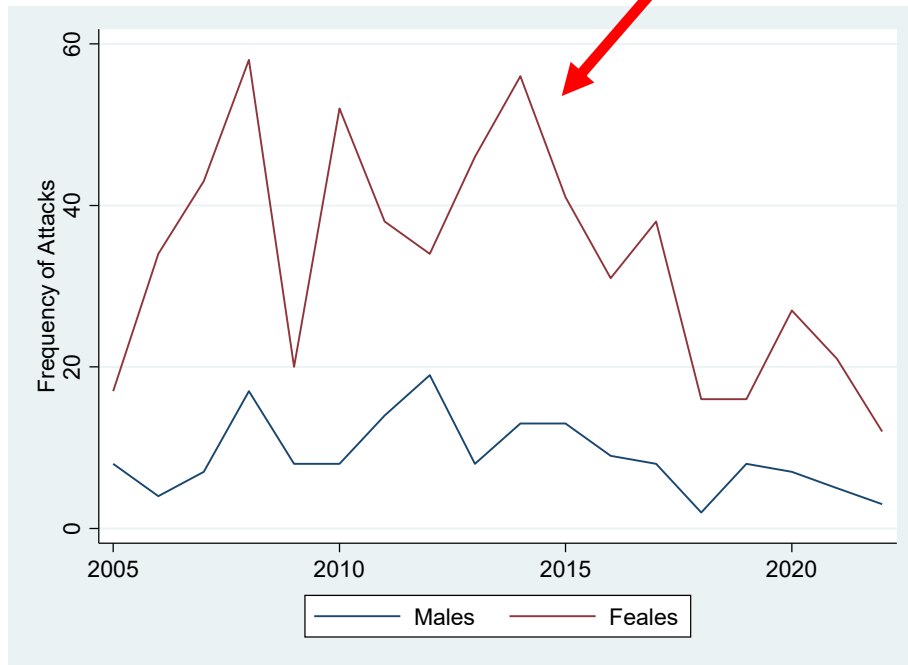
Data on Media Coverage of Acid Attacks

Collect detailed data on the attacks from newspapers.

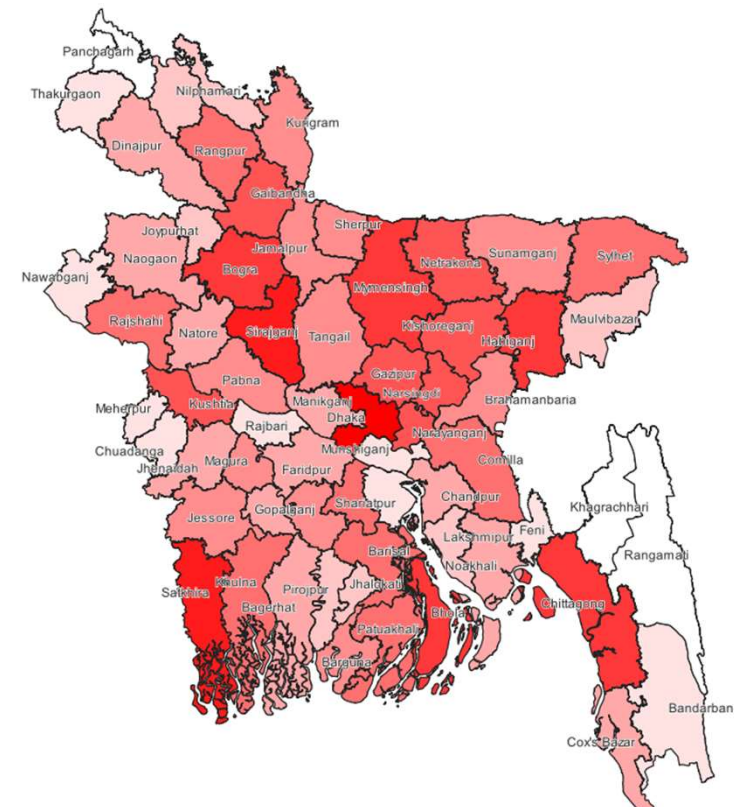
➔ 838 attacks between 2005 and 2022 (47 per year).

Trend of Reported Attacks

Most victims (79.2%) are women.



Distribution of Attacks against Women: 2005-2022



Characteristics of Victims and Perpetrators

	Violence against				
	Females	N	Males	N	
Victim characteristics					
Age	26.98	468	28.20	117	
Muslim	0.93	632	0.91	170	
Perpetrator characteristics					
Male	0.96	529	0.91	117	← Over 90% of perpetrators are men
Age	31.19	151	33.45	33	
Muslim	0.94	469	0.90	102	
Relationship		660		174	
Spouse/Ex-spouse/Lover	0.23		0.03		← 23% are committed by victim's partner
Friend/Neighbor	0.19		0.21		
Stranger	0.18		0.24		
Other family member/ relative	0.11		0.10		
Others	0.19		0.25		
Not mentioned	0.09		0.18		
Same religion	0.99	452	0.96	101	← Not related to religious tension

Identification Strategy: Event Study

Goal

The impact of media report of acid attacks on women's gender attitude

2 Datasets

1. The acid attack data (2005-2022)
2. The 2007, 2011, 2014, and 2018 DHS (N=44,791)

Estimation Model

Dependent var: gender attitude of DHS respondents

Treatment var: 1 if the respondent is interviewed just after an acid attack

Underlying Assumptions

1. The date of DHS interview is uncorrelated with respondent characteristics
2. The timing of attacks is exogenous for the DHS respondents

Causes of Attacks by Gender

Findings:

- Many attacks are caused by marriage, love and other family-related issues.
- Some attacks are for the purpose of extraction of monetary transfer.

Potential Threats to Identification:

Do negative macro shocks cause the attacks?

- Negative shocks increase violence against women (Angelucci & Heath 2020; Miguel 2005).
- Negative shocks affect the child marriage and marriage payment (Corno, Hildebrandt & Voena 2020).

	Females	Males
Marriage and Love	187	6
Refusal of marriage/love/sex	72	2
Dowry	43	0
Illicit romance (incl suspicion)	4	2
Other marital dispute	68	2
Other family-related dispute	33	10
Land/property/money dispute	111	39
Others	150	64
Total	481	119
Not mentioned	179	55
Total	660	174

Do Negative Macro Shocks Trigger the Attacks?

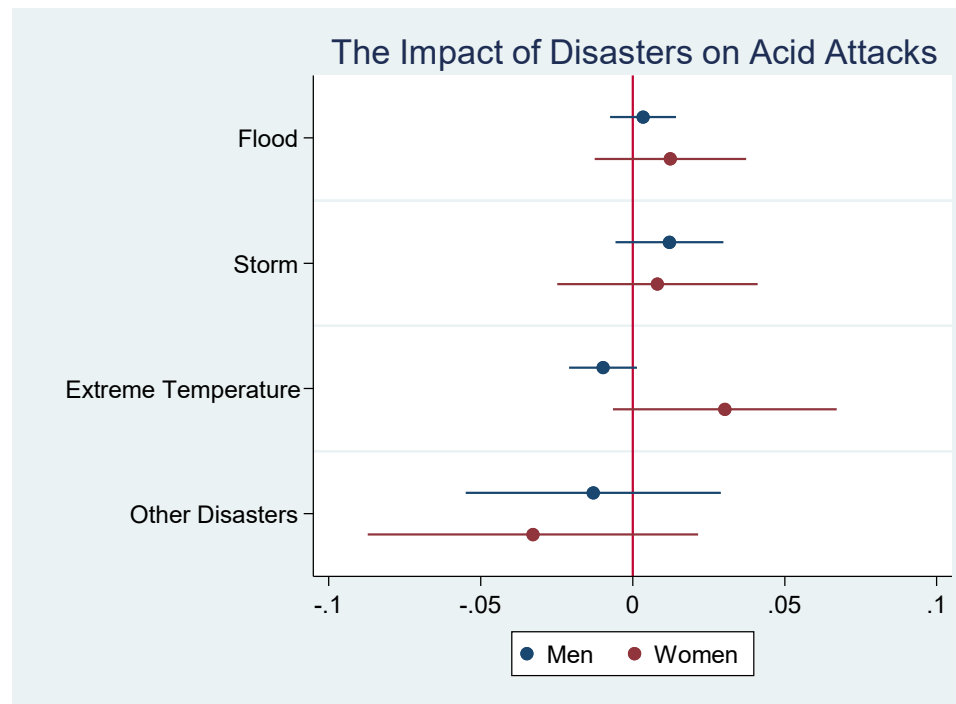
- District-month panel data on disaster shocks between 2005 and 2022 (N=13,824)

$$Attack_{dym} = Disaster_{dym}\beta + \delta_{dy} + \gamma_{ym} + \rho_{dm} + Trend_d + \varepsilon_{dym}$$

→ $\beta = 0$

→ Macro shocks do not predict the attacks.

→ The timing of attacks is plausibly exogenous.



Estimation Results

Coming soon...



Thank You for Listening!