

Women's and Girls' Empowerment in South Asia

6th JADE Conference

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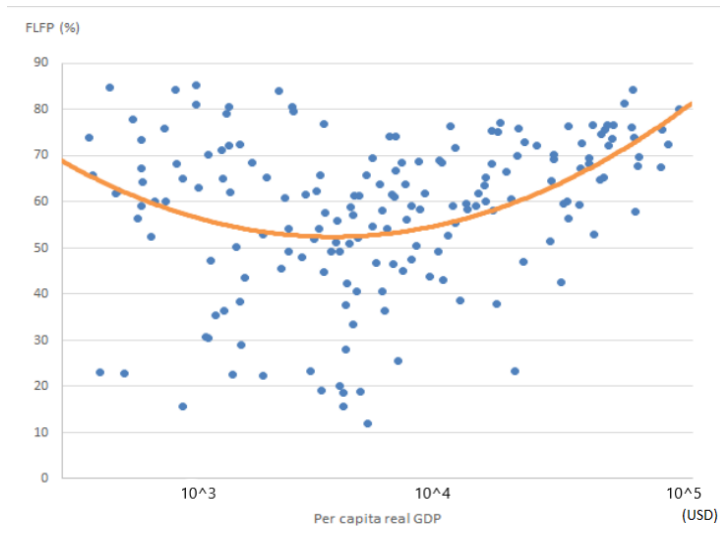
April 13, 2024

- 1 Acknowledgements
- 2 Women's Work Outside the Home ([WWOH](#))
- 3 Endeavor toward the End of [Child Marriage](#)

Acknowledgements

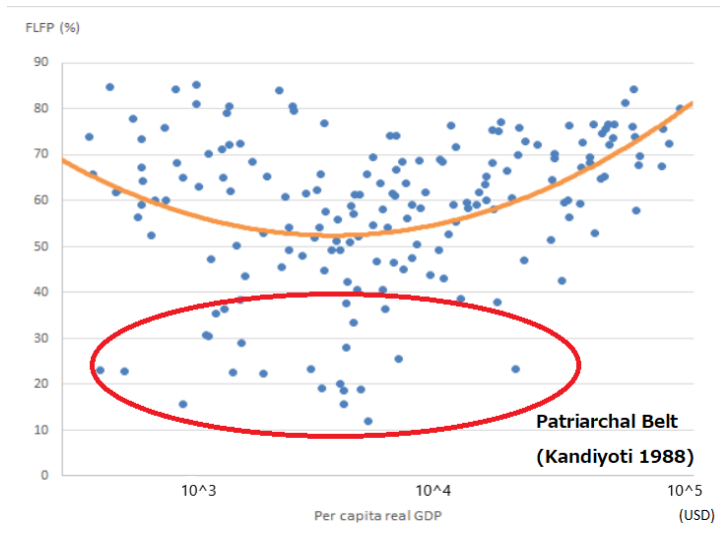
- Advisors, de-facto mentors & colleagues
Shelly Lundberg, Claus Pörtner, Seik Kim, Keijiro Otsuka, Takashi Kurosaki, Ian Coxhead, Seiro Ito, Kazushi Takahashi, Kazunari Tsukada, Yuya Kudo, Takeshi Aida, Masaru Nagashima
- Co-authors & collaborators
Abu Shonchoy, Zaki Wahhaj, Hamza Umer, Sajeda Amin, Stephanie Psaki, Christina Misunas, Thoai Ngo, Andrea J. Melnikas, Grace Saul, Tariq Munir, Nayema Husnain
- Family members and friends

Relationship between Wealth and FLFP

[▶ ref1](#)

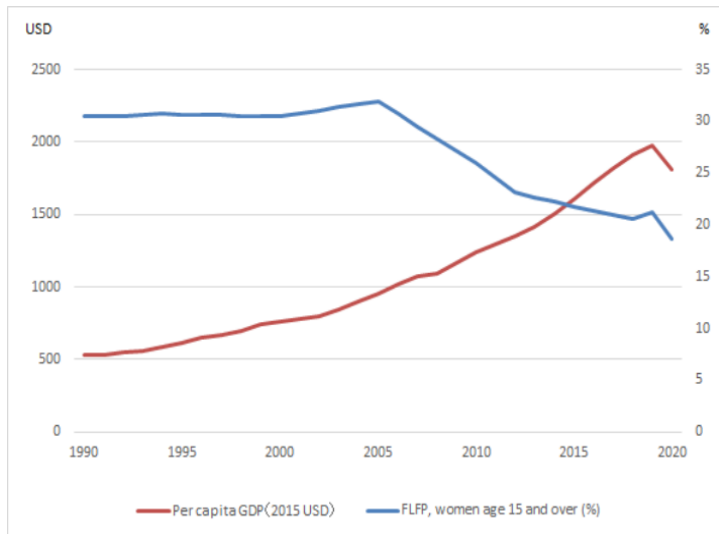
Source: World Development Indicator(<https://data.worldbank.org/>)

Relationship between Wealth and FLFP




Source: World Development Indicator(<https://data.worldbank.org/>)

Economic Growth and FLFP in India



Source: World Development Indicator(<https://data.worldbank.org/>)


Makino (*EDCC*, ahead of print)

- Light-touch RCT
 - ☞ Information provision on decent income-earning opportunities for women in export oriented garment sectors to their parents 
- Results
 - ☞ Parental attitudes toward WVOH changed
 - ☞ No actual change in WVOH
- Contribution
 - ☞ Blue-collar sector
 - ☞ Target young women's parents



Role Model in Blue-Collar Sector?

- Background
 - 👉 More than 3 million women work in garment sector now
▶ pic2
 - 👉 Strong stigma 35 yrs ago (Kabeer 2000)
- Research question
 - 👉 RCT: **Role model** session w/ and w/o parents ▶ pic3
- Interim results
 - 👉 Positive **w/o** parents, but null **w/** parents
 - 👉 **Null** for work participation ▶ fig1
 - 👉 Consistent with the previous studies (Dean and Jayachandran 2019; Bursztyn et al. 2020; Makino forthcoming)
- To do: explore what is going on (hypotheses)
 - 👉 Role model effective only in **white-collar** sector or to be aspired (Riley 2024)
 - 👉 Migration is bottleneck (Bryan et al. 2014)
 - 👉 Some changes in empowerment measures?

Social Norm or Religiosity?

- Background
 - ☞ In urban area, more attractive income earning opportunities, i.e., [white-collar sector](#)
 - ☞ No consensus whether Islam discourages WVOH
- Research question
 - ☞ Provision of religious information on WVOH
 - ☞ Which matters more, [social norm](#) or [religiosity](#)? (Dildar 2015)
- On-going in Lahore, Pakistan 

Research on Child Marriage

- Sabbatical at Population Council in NY in 2019–2021 
- **Child marriage** = marriage before age 18
- Prevalent in SSA (32%) and South Asia (26%) though being illegal in many countries
- Programs
 - (i) **CCT** with enrollment, unmarried as a condition (Baird et al. 2011, 2019; Buchmann et al. 2023)
 - (ii) **Empowerment** (Amin et al. 2018; Buchmann et al. 2023)
-  Mixed or mediocre impacts so far (Malhotra and Elnakib 2021)

Focus on Prevention of Early Pregnancy

- Motivation: Child marriage seems a **social equilibrium** in rural Bangladesh
 - ☞ Marriage market: **arranged** marriage
 - ☞ Negative aspect on focusing on child marriage
- Pilot survey observations
 - ☞ Community health workers & services are there ▶ pic6
 - ☞ No **contraceptive** knowledge among unmarried girls
 - ☞ Many girls continue education after marriage ▶ pic7
- Isn't preventing early pregnancy more effective and helpful for poor girls?
- Research question
 - ☞ Does empowerment program (provision of reproductive health knowledge for the unmarried & **contraceptives** for the married) delay early pregnancy?
- On-going in rural Bangladesh ▶ pic8

Thanks! Comments are **Welcome!**

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LFP defined by ILO

- The labor force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labor market, either by working or looking for work.
- It may underestimate the number of persons who are (a) in the labor force for less than 30 days over the year preceding the survey, (b) in unpaid employment, or (c) working near or in their home, thus mixing work and personal activities during the day.

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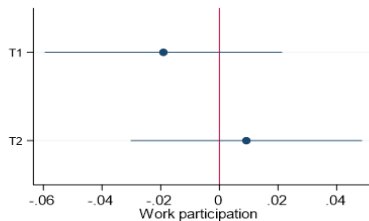
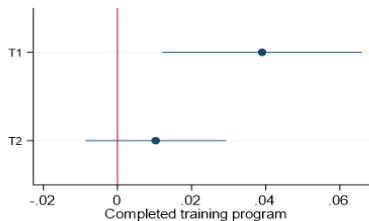
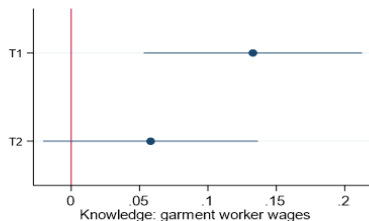
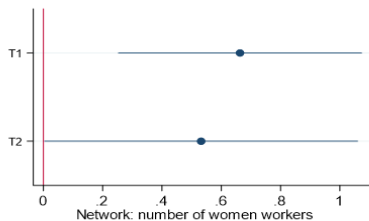


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T1=girls alone, T2=w/parents

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