



Trade and Development Seminar

Effect of Foreign Migration on School Choice of Kids Remaining Back at Home: Analysis Using Bangladesh HIES Data

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Emigration to other countries for work has been a significant phenomenon in the Bangladeshi society for about last 4 decades. Most of the migrants, overwhelmingly male, go in search of livelihood to Gulf countries. Apparently, “religiosity” of the common people have also increased in last decades, one manifestation of which is sending kids to madrasa. In other studies, it has been noted that international migration can transfer norms from the destination country to the home country. The apparent rise in “religiosity” of Bangladeshi people may or may not be related to the increasing trend of foreign migration. Given the influence of both the phenomenon, it is worth understanding if there exists any causal relationship.

Using an instrumental variable approach, I estimate the effect of migration of a household member on the choice of schools on the kids of that household. I find that migrant households are more likely to send at least one of their children to madrasa, and more likely that kid is a boy. Migrant households are not more likely to send all their kids to madrasa than non-migrant households.