Overview

• Five excellent papers on women’s well-being in South Asia

• Overlapping themes:
  • **FLFP**: Gupta; Pandey and Khanna; Mahajan et al; Sabarwal et al
  • **Marriage and Family**: Gupta; Pandey and Khanna; Mahajan et al; Calvi and Keskar
  • **Social norms**: All
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  • Marriage and Family: Gupta; Pandey and Khanna; Mahajan et al; Calvi and Keskar
  • Social norms: All

• Countries studied: India and Bangladesh

• Secondary and primary data
  • Primary: Mahajan et al; Sabarwal et al
  • Marriage and Family: Gupta; Pandey and Khanna; Calvi and Keskar

• Mix of methodological approaches
Female labor market engagement in South Asia

- Supply-side factors
- Demand-side factors
- Social norms
Female labor market engagement in South Asia

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  - Childcare responsibilities (Pandey and Khanna)
  - Marriage penalty for working women (Mahajan et al)
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  • Male breadwinner norm (Gupta; Mahajan et al)
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• Social norms also alter the effectiveness of well-intentioned reforms (Calvi and Keskar)
  • Social stigma around divorce lowers effectiveness of anti-dowry law
Policy Implications

- Availability of affordable, high quality childcare services
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  • Norms-related barriers to take-up of formal childcare?
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• Reshaping social norms
  • “Support for female labor force participation is malleable” – Sabarwal et al
  • Change incentives; close knowledge gaps; role models
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• Role of family members, household structure, intrahousehold-dynamics
  • Mothers-in-law, husbands, fathers