Shocks on the labor market, children’s time allocation and women’s empowerment: Insights from the 2011 Egyptian uprising

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Abstract

This paper investigates the impacts of a dual shock on the Egyptian labor market following the 2011 uprising, on children’s time allocation. We estimate the effects of reported changes in male household heads’ working conditions on children’s work participation and school enrollment in bivariate probit models, using the 2012 round of the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey. We link two strands of the literature by exploring the role of the mother’s empowerment in shock transmission. Following Reggio (2011), we address the endogeneity of the mother’s bargaining power by estimating it separately from the other parameters of the model. We find that reported positive changes lowers daughters’ participation in intensive domestic work. This result only holds at a higher level of the mother’s bargaining power. It suggests that a woman’s say in household decisions can affect the reallocation of resources following a change in the family income.

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