

Lecture 13: Gender Data

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Q: In the context of, for instance, climate smart agriculture adoption and food security, disaggregation done by household headship has been widely for instance in East Africa. Does this mean that existing studies have already answered such questions defeating the purpose of new studies?

A: Also, disaggregation by household head is what Cheryl has told us that we should not do!! So there are gender issues here, but studies that have relied on comparisons of male- and female-headed households have probably missed some important points.

Q: In the Malawian context, how is 'joint ownership' or 'joint management' of land understood and practiced when inheritance or land allocation is typically designated to a single individual? Do you think that respondents reporting land ownership (either the husband or the wife) are considering management rights as well?

A: Hi, yeah, this is a good question more broadly. Related to the issue about who is making decisions. Do you want to ask Cheryl at the end?

Q: How representative are the world value surveys for rural areas in developing countries?

A: I have my doubts, actually. I think the World Values surveys are phone based surveys, and they try to use weighting and other stratification techniques to recover accurate population-weighted answers. But you might worry that the sampling of respondents in rural areas is not great, and potentially highly non-representative of rural populations. In that sense, it may be

Q: Dennis, in East Africa there is the interesting issues that most land is owned by men but most cultivators of land are women. One question on climate change would be ""How do households make climate-smart decisions on what practices to adopt? Or whose decision counts in climate-smart practices?

A: Refining the question will certainly be important. There are plenty of examples where agricultural development efforts have promoted technologies that require a lot of labor -- and especially women's labor -- without really thinking about the opportunity cost of women's time. That isn't a great recipe for technology adoption, as you can imagine!

A: And again the question of the discrepancy between land ownership, decision-making, and the cost of technology.

Q: Thanks Cheryl for a great talk, I especially love the point you mentioned on using time use survey data to understand intra-household allocation of resources. Can you give me some examples/clues

on how to use the rich info from TUS to macro models? I only know a few like estimating unpaid work to calculate GDP.

A: This is a paper I like a lot:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/bgm3lh83fth0dcvd7ilpd/NgaiOlivettiPetrongolo.pdf?rlkey=5wzunv6khq4cv97e3h1gtlkgq&e=1&dl=0>

Q: In a lot of household surveys, such as LSMS, I've noticed that working men are somewhat under-represented (compared to say, WDI). Are there resources that could help think about what this might mean when aggregating up for a macro/cross-country style study? Especially if we're thinking about things like sex-ratios (for instance).

A: Interesting observation, Sushil. I don't have an answer for this, but perhaps Cheryl will have thought about it. But I wonder if it goes with the higher likelihood of males migrating out of the household (and hence missing from the household roster). Young men, in particular, may be away.