

ESTIMATING COUNTERFACTUAL SCHOOLING OUTCOMES
USING INVERSE PROPENSITY SCORE REWEIGHTING

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A Special Problem submitted
in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Statistics

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March 2012

Abstract

Impacts of international labor migration and remittances to the economy, both at the household and aggregate levels, have well been documented in the literature. At the micro-level analysis, however, focus has often been confined on the binary treatment assignment of remittance-receipt and/or migrant-membership among households. This may mask finer but important impacts which may be revealed with a more disaggregated analysis. This study contributes to the migration and development literature by estimating the impact of migration of either parent on schooling participation and performance of children left behind. To cope with the multi-level non-binary treatment assignments in the study, re-weighting based on the propensity score is used to provide valid counterfactual distributions of the outcomes. Children of migrant parents perform better in school participation and performance relative to children of non-migrant parents. Furthermore, while school attendance is invariant of who among the parents migrate, children of migrant fathers perform better in school. This highlights the nurturing role of mothers in child-rearing, especially with regards education of children.

Keywords: propensity score reweighting, bootstrap methods, International migration, education