

Discussion

Bargaining, Gender and the Intra-household Allocation of Healthcare Resources

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CONTENT OF THE PAPER

Contribution

- Intra-household bargaining power and health investments (prevention)
- Gender biases of children: pro-boy bias
- Cross-country comparison

Main results

- Bargaining matters: unitary model rejected
- Pro-boy bias in all countries under investigation
- Offset by female decision-making power (in three of four countries)
- Mixed findings for female bargaining power and prevention (depending on measures)

COMMENTS

(1) Intra-household decision-making

- Household types: multi-generational?
- Definition of bargainers: HH head vs. budget holder vs. financial decider?
- Joint budget and joint expenditure: reliable assumption?
- Provide some more descriptive statistics on household composition

(2) Measures of bargaining power

- Relative age: the older the more powerful: not convincing (re-marriage as threat point)

COMMENTS

(3) Endogeneity of bargaining measures

- HH head and budget holder positions exogeneous?
- Using GLS: how large is the bias?

(4) Vulnerability of boys

- Does this apply to infants only?
- No control for health status: omitted variable bias?

COMMENTS

(5) Interpretation of results

- Explain country differences: Institutions? Cultural differences?
Transformation process?
- “Feminisation of poverty“:
 - Not captured by wealth?
 - Why are results not conditioned on levels (education etc.)?