

The Analysis of Migrant Workers in Bangladesh on Children's Learning Outcomes

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Abstract

Parental labor migration, both rural–urban and international, has been extensively examined in relation to children's education. However, empirical evidence on its impact on learning outcomes remains scarce in low- and lower-middle-income countries, largely due to data limitations. This study examines the association of parental migration on children's foundational learning and psychological well-being in Bangladesh using nationally representative data from MICS6 (2019). Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimates suggest strong positive associations between paternal international migration and children's learning outcomes, weaker or insignificant effects of paternal domestic migration, and potential negative consequences of maternal migration. After applying Inverse Probability Weighting with Regression Adjustment (IPW-RA) to mitigate endogeneity bias, the positive paternal effects disappear, while the negative associations of maternal migration with both educational and psychological outcomes has become clearer and more robust. These findings underscore the importance of distinguishing between paternal and maternal migration when assessing the consequences of migration for child development.

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Declaration of competing interests and Data availability statement

The authors declare no relevant financial or non-financial competing interests. The data is publicly available.