

# Effects of Primary Male Migration on Women Empowerment

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## Abstract:

Male out migration from rural areas means women left behind have to assume roles and responsibilities previously handled by their husbands. Women now encounter situations that enable them to exercise greater authority and potentially become more empowered. This paper evaluates the effect of primary male migration on various women empowerment indicators using data from rural Bangladesh. To account for self-selection and endogeneity bias of migration, we employ propensity score matching and instrument variables, respectively, for efficient estimation of migration on the women empowerment indicators. The average treatment effects on the treated reveal that migration has statistically significant large positive effects on women's ownership of major assets, control over minor household expenditure and freedom of mobility, and has statistically significant negative effects on being subject to domestic violence. Instrumental variable regression results reveal that male migration has statistically significant effects on women's ownership of major and minor assets, control over minor household expenditures, ability to maintain contact with family and friends, freedom of mobility and subject to domestic violence.