MCC Impact Evaluation Conference
January 21, 2011

Delving into Development Programs' Effects on Women: Incorporating Gender in Impact Evaluations Meaningfully and Practically

Moderator: Celeste Lemrow (0:00)
Panelists: Michelle Adato (MCC), Harold Alderman (World Bank), Nava Ashraf (Harvard University), and Agnes Quisumbing (IFPRI)

Michelle Adato: *Integrating Gender in MCC Impact Assessment* (5:00)

- Gender inequality is a significant constraint to growth
- Need to separate female-headed households from females within male-headed households when doing analysis on gender impacts
- Need for disaggregated gender impacts by economic sector
- Use household assets rather than income – a predictor of income, but more stable; influences within-household resource allocations
- Gendered indicators should be used, rather than simply disaggregating regular indicators

Harold Alderman: *Two Promising Areas for Impact Evaluation on Gender* (23:00)

- 1) Early childhood development – need to increase the role of men in child rearing
- 2) Reforming family rights
    - Customary law in Sub-Saharan Africa often grants few rights to women
    - Case studies show changes in law can impact health, fertility, etc.
- Shifting resources within a household cannot be captured by cost-benefit analysis because it is a transfer; we need to find methods to measure health and time gains within households
- Memorable quotes: "Gender analysis is not about women, it is about the interaction between men and women," and, "Nutrition/early childhood development activities have higher rates of return than infrastructure and agriculture"

Nava Ashraf: *Gender and Development: Empowering Women in Finance and Fertility* (42:30)

- Use of randomized control trials to assess intra-household social factors
    - Microfinance in Philippines – new savings product increased overall savings and decision making power for women
    - Fertility in Zambia – Providing women with family planning vouchers in presence of men lowers uptake of fertility services
- Includes a mix of field experiments and qualitative methods
- Exposed differential adoption patterns and impacts based on household composition and control factors
- Men were receptive to family planning when they saw the link to maternal morbidity
- Memorable quote: "RCTs can be used to get inside the black box of the household"

Agnes Quisumbing: *Evaluating the Long-Term Impact of Agricultural Technologies in Bangladesh: Looking within the Household* (1:02:00)

- Evaluation of long-term effects of gender and nutrition in Bangladesh
- Propensity score matching with differences in differences to control for fixed unobservables
- Effect of implementation modalities on vegetable and fish technologies in Bangladesh
- Lumpy vs. divisible technologies
- Positive impact of early adoption for vegetables but negative impact of early adoption for fish (income gains are more widely spread)

- Memorable quote: “Not all situations with income and gender equality are win-win… There are trade-offs, such as cost-effectiveness vs. nutrition”