

Are we enslaving or facilitating women empowerment? : A Bangladesh Case

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ABSTRACT

This paper mainly examines the supply side determinants of the female labor force participation in Bangladesh, addresses the barriers to entry and recommends policy alterations. Variables of interest like- number of children, fertility, domestic violence, electrification, husbands stay in the house have been considered in the model to examine their impact on labor force participation. A comparative study of these variables on different levels of education and regional location of the women has also been shown in the paper. The results show that the two main underlying reasons for women's participation in the labor force is due to their vulnerability towards poverty or because they are members of the elite socioeconomic strata who join the labor market for careerist goals. Access to electricity in the rural areas is negatively affecting the labor force participation of women. On the other hand, living in the rural areas has more chances of participation compared to when they live in the urban areas. In addition to the discussions of such unconventional findings, the paper suggests policies to facilitate women empowerment in Bangladesh.