

Female labor Force Participation of Middle Eastern and North African Immigrant Women in Canada

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Introduction

- Access to the means of production for women are essential in achieving UN SDGs Goals number 5, 8 and 10.
- Female Labour Force Participation (FLFP) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is the lowest in the world^{1,2} due to deep-rooted patriarchal culture in the region^{3,4}.

Objectives

- Examining whether FLFP of immigrants from MENA countries changes after migrating to Canada.
- What happens to FLFP of immigrants over time?
- What factors influence their decision to participate in the labour force in Canada?

Data

- Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) merged with LSIC-Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)
- The merged version covers surveys of immigrants from 2001-2015

Methodology

- Binary Choice Model: Logistic Regression
- The fitted models are based on Generalized Estimating Equations (GEE)

Labour force participation (λ):

$$\text{logit}(E(\lambda)) = \sum_{i=1}^7 \alpha_i \phi_i$$

Employment status (ε):

$$\text{logit}(E(\varepsilon)) = \sum_{i=1}^7 \beta_i \phi_i$$

ϕ_1 : origin, ϕ_2 : education, ϕ_3 : spousal income, ϕ_4 : age, ϕ_5 : immigrant class, ϕ_6 : principal applicant, ϕ_7 : region of residence

Results

		Labour Force participation		Employment Status	
Covariates	Categories	OR [95% CI]	P-value	OR [95% CI]	P-value
Region of Origin	MENA	0.47 [0.39-0.58]	0.000	0.47 [0.39-0.57]	0.000
Education	Higher	1.50 [1.29-1.74]	0.000	1.63 [1.40-1.90]	0.000
Principal Applicant	Yes	1.68 [1.49-1.90]	0.000	1.50 [1.34-1.67]	0.000
Spousal Income	Yes	1.77 [1.68-1.87]	0.000	1.14 [1.09-1.20]	0.000

Discussion

- The probability of women from MENA participating in the labour force is less than Eur. & N. America's FLFP.
- Level of education increases the probability of FLFP.
- Being a principal applicant increases the probability of FLFP among immigrants in Canada.
- Spousal income above mean increases the probability of FLFP among immigrants in Canada.

Future Experiments

- Fit the models in sub-group of years (e.g. 2001-05, 2006-10 and 2011-15)
- Create subgroups among female immigrants in order to compare respondents from MENA country with immigrants from other regions

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