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 world1,2 due to deep-rooted patriarchal culture in the region3,4.

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?

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

\[
\logit(\lambda_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{7} \alpha_i \phi_i \\
\logit(\varepsilon_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{7} \beta_i \phi_i
\]

\(\phi_1: \text{origin}, \phi_2: \text{education}, \phi_3: \text{spousal income}, \phi_4: \text{age}, \phi_5: \text{immigrant class}, \phi_6: \text{principal applicant}, \phi_7: \text{region of residence}\)

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covariates</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>OR [95% CI]</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>OR [95% CI]</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region of Origin</td>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>0.47 [0.39-0.58]</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.47 [0.39-0.57]</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Higher</td>
<td>1.50 [1.29-1.74]</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.63 [1.40-1.90]</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Applicant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.68 [1.49-1.90]</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.50 [1.34-1.67]</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spousal Income</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.77 [1.68-1.87]</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.14 [1.09-1.20]</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

References

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