Structural Transformation and the Demographic Transition: Evidence from Bangladesh

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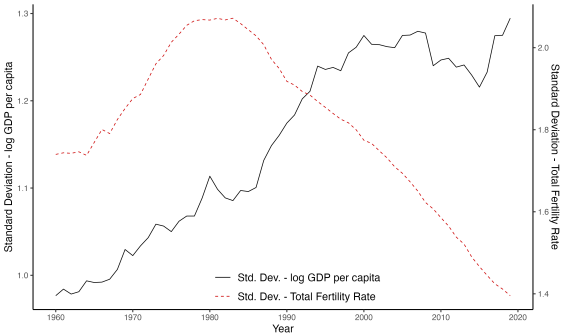
Motivation

- Fertility rates are converging, in part due to family planning programs
- Income per capita convergence less clear, despite predictions of neoclassical growth models (Solow 1956)
- Importance of surplus labor in macroeconomic models (Lewis, 1954; Gollin et al., 2002, 2007; Leukhina and Turnovsky, 2016)
- Question: Does faster demographic transition impact the pace of industrialization?



What we do

How does the demographic transition affect structural transformation?

- Key challenges:
  - Need exogenous variation in fertility and early-life mortality
  - Impact of lower fertility on labor market not felt until children grow up, so many years of data needed for evaluation

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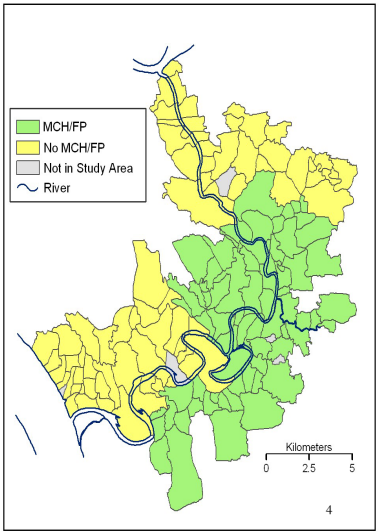
- Key challenges:
  - Need exogenous variation in fertility and early-life mortality
  - Impact of lower fertility on labor market not felt until children grow up, so many years of data needed for evaluation
- Leverage quasi-experimental variation in access to contraception & early-childhood vaccines 45 years ago in rural Matlab, Bangladesh
- Use rich data on individuals/households across several decades
- Examine long-run effects on sectoral employment and farming practices

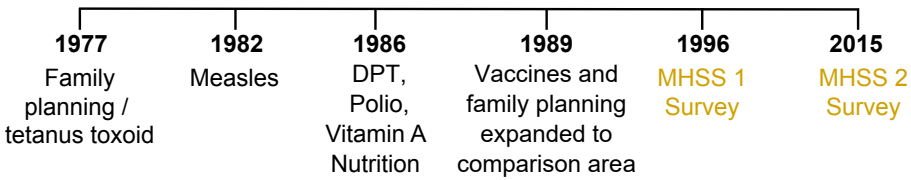
Matlab Maternal and Child Health / Family Planning Program



- Introduced by International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh 1977-1988
- Highly successful, large rise in contraceptive prevalence, immunization
- Comparison villages socially and economically similar pre-intervention (Phillips et al. 1982; Koenig et al. 1990) Balance
- Clustering reduced information spillovers (Huber and Khan 1979) and facilitated estimation of community effects

Matlab Mother and Child Health and Family Planning Program

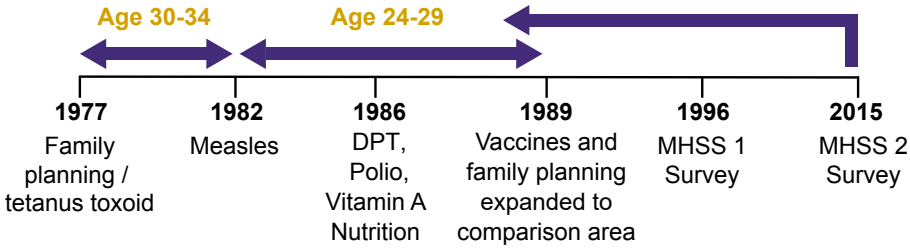
MCH-FP



- Monthly in-home visits by community health workers

Matlab Mother and Child Health and Family Planning Program

MCH-FP



- Monthly in-home visits by community health workers
- Matlab Health and Socio-Economic Survey (MHSS) 1996 & 2015

Data—Matlab Health and Socioeconomic Surveys (MHSS)

- MHSS had two waves: 1996 and 2012-2015
  - MHSS a representative random sample taken in 1996 of households in Matlab
  - Our baseline sample: 2,580 MHSS1 households
- Large number of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
  - Detailed labor market data
  - Agricultural variables on inputs/outputs

Data—Matlab Health and Socioeconomic Surveys (MHSS)

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  - Our baseline sample: 2,580 MHSS1 households
- Large number of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
  - Detailed labor market data
  - Agricultural variables on inputs/outputs
- Very low attrition
  - Intense effort to follow internal and international migrants who left Matlab subdistrict
  - Followed 90% of men born during the experimental period
- Demographic Surveillance System facilitates linkages across time and to ancestors
- Pre-intervention variables derived from 1974 and 1982 cenuses

Baseline Estimation Strategy

Compare conditional means between treatment and control households

Estimate at the 1996 household level Detail:

$$Y_h = \omega_0 + \omega_1 T_h + \zeta X_h + \varepsilon_h$$

for household h

- Outcome Y_h
- Treatment eligibility T_h based on 1974 village of 1996 household head (intent-to-treat approach) Detail
- X_h is a vector of 1974 baseline controls tied to the 1996 household head
- cluster SEs at 1974 village level

Effect of MCH/FP on HH Sectoral Composition - 2015

As a fraction of total hours worked, treated households spent 3.1pp less time in manufacturing and 5.2pp more in agriculture

Dependent variable: % of household work time spent per sector			
	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services
Treated	0.0520***	-0.0314**	-0.0105
	(0.0158)	(0.0150)	(0.0166)
% chg. rel. to mean	23.2	-17.2	-2.5
Mean	0.22	0.18	0.42
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y
Embankment controls	Y	Y	Y
Observations	2580	2580	2580

Notes: The table presents estimates for outcomes measured in 2015 aggregated at the MHSS1 household-level. Variable means refer to the comparison group. Standard errors are clustered by the MHSS1 household head's pre-program village. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Key Mechanisms

- Program reduced number of births among prime age women by $\sim$1 (Joshi and Schultz 2007), so fewer marginal members went into non-agricultural jobs
- Effects mediated by rural-to-urban migration & intrahousehold allocation based on individual human capital (Barham 2012; Barham et al. 2022)
- Treated farmers adjust to fewer household members by being 15pp more likely to use high-yield seeds for labor intensive crops

Key Mechanism: Household Size

First-stage

	(1) Number of Men Age 24-34	(2) Number of Women Age 24-34
Treated	-0.13***	-0.06*
	(0.04)	(0.04)
Observations	2580	2580
Adjusted R^2	0.007	-0.001
Mean	0.8	0.7
% chg. rel. to mean	-16.05	-8.99
Baseline controls	Y	Y
Controlling for embankment	Y	Y

Notes: The table presents estimates of the effect of the MCH-FP on 2014 outcomes at the MHSS1 household-level. Variable means refer to the comparison group. Standard errors are clustered by pre-program village. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Key Mechanism: Household Size

Second stage

Dependent variable: % of household work time spent per sector			
	(1) Agriculture	(2) Manufacturing	(3) Services
Num. males age 24-34	-0.389**	0.235*	0.0787
	(0.155)	(0.140)	(0.118)
Mean	0.22	0.18	0.42
First-stage F-stat.	10.4	10.4	10.4
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y
Embankment controls	Y	Y	Y
Observations	2580	2580	2580

Notes: The table presents 2SLS estimates for outcomes measured in 2014 aggregated at the MHSS1 household-level. Variable means refer to the comparison group. Standard errors are clustered by the 1996 household head's pre-program village. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Conclusion

- Shown some of the first well identified causal evidence of effect of the demographic transition on structural transformation
- Find that the demographic transition slows down structural transformation
  - driven by smaller household sizes
  - intrahousehold sectoral allocation based on human capital
  - costs of migration to urban centers high (Imbert and Papp 2020), without significant wage gains (Barham, Kuhn, and Turner 2022)
- Farmers adjust to smaller household size by more intensively using technology and purchased inputs

Appendix

Effect of MCH-FP on Sectoral Employment

Individual-level (Men only)

	Share hours by sector			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Hours worked
Treatment × Born 1982-88	-0.00484	-0.0787**	0.0688*	-7.676
	(0.0219)	(0.0313)	(0.0409)	(106.7)
Treatment × Born 1977-81	0.0581*	-0.0445	-0.0395	10.10
	(0.0299)	(0.0340)	(0.0463)	(122.2)
Treatment × Not born 1977-88	0.0522*	0.0158	-0.0349	-222.5**
	(0.0273)	(0.0149)	(0.0304)	(103.5)
% Chg., Treat×(Born 1982–88)	-5.7	-35.3	13.2	-0.2
% Chg., Treat×(Born 1977–81)	59.37	-24.32	-6.97	0.31
% Chg., Treat×(Born Pre-1977 or Post-1988)	18.68	16.90	-10.05	-9.78
Mean if born 1982-88	0.09	0.22	0.52	3073.36
Mean if born 1977-81	0.10	0.18	0.57	3290.94
Mean if born pre-1977 or post-1988	0.28	0.09	0.35	2276.51
Observations	2819	2819	2819	2819

Notes: The table presents estimates of the effect of the MCH-FP on 2014 outcomes for men at the individual-level. Means by age group refer to the non-treated. Standard errors are clustered by pre-program village. Regressions are weighted to adjust for attrition between birth and the MHSS2 survey. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

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Effect of MCH-FP on Sectoral Employment

Individual-level (Women only)

	Share hours by sector			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Hours worked
Treatment × Born 1982-88	0.0596***	0.00754	-0.0214	76.12
	(0.0220)	(0.0260)	(0.0193)	(78.60)
Treatment × Born 1977-81	-0.0193	-0.00957	0.0255	-52.51
	(0.0367)	(0.0288)	(0.0271)	(89.69)
Treatment × Not born 1977-88	0.0124	-0.00839	-0.00907	-42.77
	(0.0282)	(0.0120)	(0.0110)	(44.29)
% Chg., Treat×(Born 1982–88)	41.1	6.1	-28.9	16.8
% Chg., Treat×(Born 1977–81)	-10.61	-8.68	41.44	-11.22
% Chg., Treat×(Born Pre-1977 or Post-1988)	5.02	-22.00	-18.98	-12.53
Mean if born 1982-88	0.14	0.12	0.07	454.43
Mean if born 1977-81	0.18	0.11	0.06	468.01
Mean if born pre-1977 or post-1988	0.25	0.04	0.05	341.43
Observations	3322	3322	3322	3322

Notes: The table presents estimates of the effect of the MCH-FP on 2014 outcomes for women at the individual-level. Means by age group refer to the non-treated. Standard errors are clustered by pre-program village. Regressions are weighted to adjust for attrition between birth and the MHSS2 survey. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

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Treatment × Born 1977-81	-0.0193	-0.00957	0.0255	-52.51
	(0.0367)	(0.0288)	(0.0271)	(89.69)
Treatment × Not born 1977-88	0.0124	-0.00839	-0.00907	-42.77
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Notes: The table presents estimates of the effect of the MCH-FP on 2014 outcomes for women at the individual-level. Means by age group refer to the non-treated. Standard errors are clustered by pre-program village. Regressions are weighted to adjust for attrition between birth and the MHSS2 survey. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Urbanization or Rural Industrialization?

To discern whether baseline effects are driven by rural-to-urban migration, estimate baseline specification but separate urban jobs from rural jobs

- Important question for household welfare
- Migration is costly, so workers might prefer rural industrialization

Effect on Rural Households

Dependent variable: % of household work time spent per sector			
	(1) Agriculture	(2) Manufacturing	(3) Services
Treated	0.0424***	0.00144	-0.0245
	(0.0154)	(0.00732)	(0.0153)
% chg. rel. to mean	19.3	3.1	-11.5
Mean	0.22	0.05	0.21
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y
Embankment controls	Y	Y	Y
Observations	2580	2580	2580

Notes: The table presents regression estimates for outcomes measured in 2014 aggregated at the 1996 household-level. Variable means refer to the comparison group. Standard errors are clustered by the 1996 household head's pre-program village. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Effect on Urban Households

Dependent variable: % of household work time spent per sector			
	(1) Agriculture	(2) Manufacturing	(3) Services
Treated	0.00958	-0.0329***	0.0140
	(0.00642)	(0.0118)	(0.0180)
% chg. rel. to mean	191.6	-24.1	6.9
Mean	0.00	0.14	0.20
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y
Embankment controls	Y	Y	Y
Observations	2580	2580	2580

Notes: The table presents regression estimates for outcomes measured in 2014 aggregated at the 1996 household-level. Variable means refer to the comparison group. Standard errors are clustered by the 1996 household head's pre-program village. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Agricultural Adjustment

- Treated households more likely to continue farming.
  - despite having less HH labor to draw upon
- Adjustment margins:
  - Adopt labor-saving technology/capital.
  - Hire labor from outside the household.

$\rightarrow$ Can observe these outcomes at the crop-level.

  - We categorize crops as either labor intensive or non-labor intensive

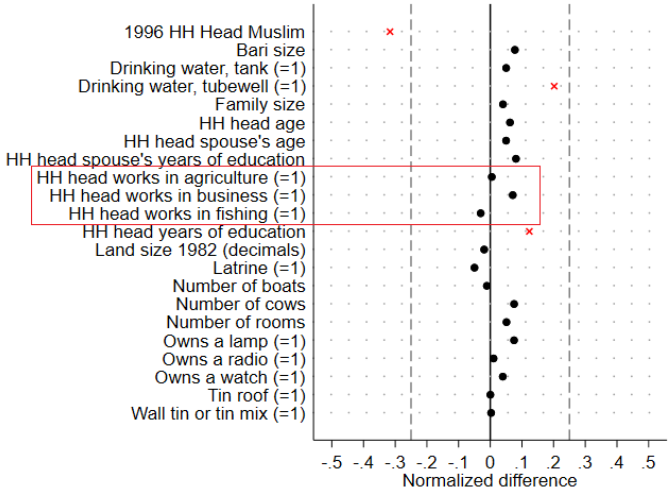
Effect on rev./acre

How did Farmers Adjust to Fewer Household Members?

	Use of High-Yield Seeds		Use of Capital for Crop		Cost of market inputs	
	(1) labor intensive crops	(2) non-labor intensive crops	(3) labor intensive crops	(4) non-labor intensive crops	(5) labor intensive crops	(6) non-labor intensive crops
Treated	0.146***	0.004	0.026	0.010	29.689**	-0.539
	(0.041)	(0.045)	(0.017)	(0.007)	(13.088)	(35.280)
Observations	785	1346	785	1346	785	1346
Adjusted R^2	0.041	0.006	0.003	0.022	-0.003	0.035
% chg. rel. to mean	32.3	0.8	2.7	1.1	32.0	-0.2
Mean	0.45	0.46	0.96	0.99	92.87	267.61
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Embankment control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Notes: The table presents estimates of at the MHSS1 household-level for outcomes measured in 2014. Variable means refer to the comparison group. Standard errors are clustered by pre-program village. Regressions are conditional on the household growing either a labor-intensive crop (columns 1, 3, and 5) or a non-labor-intensive crop (columns 2, 4, and 6). Labor intensive crops are jute, vegetables, paddy aus, other crops, maize, and wheat, while non-labor intensive crops are dal, mustard, paddy boro, paddy aman, and potatoes. Labor intensity is computed as the ratio of acres cultivated for a given crop (including both owned and sharecropped land) to hours worked by family members on the family farm (number of weeks $\times$ average weekly hours) for households that grew only 1 crop. Market inputs are crop inputs purchased by the household. They are seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, irrigation, tilling, and labor. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Baseline Balance (in 1974) between Treatment and Control Households



Back

Assigning Treatment Status

Intent-to-treat approach

- Treatment during program (1977-1988) assigned based on village of residence
- But outcomes observed in 2012-2015
  - Household's location may be affected by MCH-FP (Barham and Kuhn 2014)
- Therefore, we link respondents back to their 1974 household
- 1974 household location determines treatment status

Two issues:

- Affected individuals might not be alive in 1974
- Households may have mixed treatment status

$\rightarrow$ Assign household treatment status based on household head (or ancestors) in 1996.

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Estimation Strategy

Aggregation

In MHSS wave 2 (2012-2014), we measure

- employment at the individual level
- agriculture at the household level

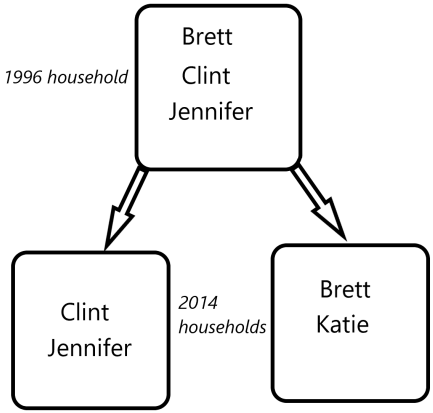
We estimate our baseline regressions at the MHSS wave 1 (1996) household level

- Want to avoid household formations and splits that results from the program between waves 1 and 2
- Typically, household makes migration/employment decision, not individual
- Maintain consistent unit of observation across regressions

$\rightarrow$ Results robust to alternative aggregations (individual or village)

Back

Household Aggregation



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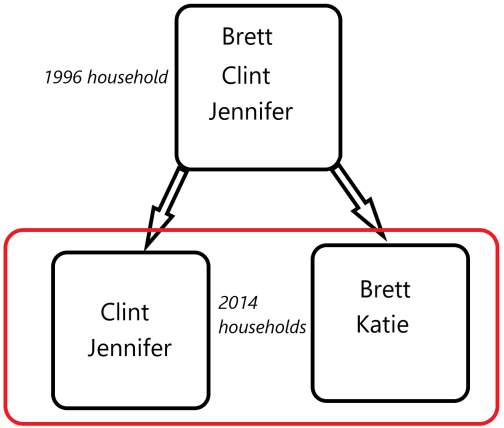

Effect of MCHP-FP on Consumption Shares

	(1) Agriculture	(2) Manufacturing	(3) Services
Treated	0.01	0.00	-0.01
	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.02)
Observations	2575	2575	2575
Adjusted R^2	-0.001	0.002	-0.001
% chg. rel. to mean	1.4	0.3	-2.3
Mean	0.49	0.19	0.35
Embankment dummies	Y	Y	Y
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y

Notes: The table presents estimates of equation 6 for consumption shares measured in the MHSS2 aggregated at the MHSS1 household-level. Variable means refer to the comparison group. Standard errors are clustered by the 1996 household head's pre-program village. Baseline and embankment control variables assigned based on the MHSS1 household head's traceback household. Consumption goods classified into sectors based on United Nations (2018). *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively

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Effect of MCHP-FP on Revenue and Profits per Acre

	(1) Revenue per acre (min. price)	(2) Revenue per acre (max. price)	(3) Profit per acre (min. price)	(4) Profits per acre (max. price)
Treated	-0.591	24.74	-10.63	-34.27
	(39.52)	(143.0)	(52.18)	(144.3)
% chg. rel. to mean	-0.1	16.0	-1.6	-41.4
Mean	446.13	154.24	683.45	82.84
Embankment controls	Y	Y	Y	Y
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	1411	1411	1411	1411

Notes: The table presents estimates of the effect of the MCH-FP on 2014 outcomes at the MHSS1 household-level. Standard errors are clustered by pre-program village. Prices derived from the national Bangladeshi statistical yearbooks 2012-2014. Minimum prices are the minimum price listed in the yearbook for a given year within a crop type (e.g., Paddy Aman) amongst all varieties of that crop type (e.g., coarse or fine). Profits net of imputed family farm labor costs. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Back

Effects of MCH-FP on Long-term Employment by Fraction of Household Treated

PANEL A: Share of household members employed by sector			
	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services
% HH treated	0.051***	-0.021***	-0.007
	(0.014)	(0.008)	(0.010)
% chg. rel. to mean	23.0	-19.5	-2.5
Mean	0.22	0.11	0.26
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y
Embankment control			
Observations	2580	2580	2580
PANEL B: Fraction of household hours worked by sector			
	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services
% HH treated	0.053***	-0.033**	-0.006
	(0.016)	(0.015)	(0.016)
% chg. rel. to mean	23.81	-18.13	-1.56
Mean	0.22	0.18	0.41
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y
Embankment control			
Observations	2580	2580	2580

Notes: The table presents estimates for outcomes measured in 2014 aggregated at the MHSS1 household-level. Variable means refer to the comparison group. Standard errors are clustered by the 1996 household head's pre-program village. The dependent variable in panel A is the share of household members working in each sector. The dependent variable in panel B is the fraction of total hours worked with the MHSS1 household allocated to each sector. See Appendix **??** for more details on how we classify workers into sectors. Industry employment shares do not sum to 1 for two reasons. First, we do not report results for two small sectors, construction and mining. Second, a small set of respondents not providing sufficient information to classify them into sectors. *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

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Model Setup

- Consider a small open economy with L households Evidence on consumption shares
- Two sectors: manufacturing (m) and agriculture (a)
- Three factors: labor (L), imported intermediates (Z), and land (T)
- Manufacturing production:

$$Q_m = A_m L_m$$

- Agriculture production:

$$Q_a = A_a \left[\omega Z_a^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} + (1-\omega) L_a^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} \right]^{\frac{\theta\epsilon}{\epsilon-1}} T_a^{1-\theta}$$

Solving the Model

In equilibrium:

- $T_a = T$
- $L = L_a + L_m$
- Fixed factor (land) $\implies$ declining MPL_a while MPL_m remains constant.

Solving the Model

In equilibrium:

- $T_a = T$
- $L = L_a + L_m$
- Fixed factor (land) $\implies$ declining MPL_a while MPL_m remains constant.

EMPIRICAL PREDICTIONS:

(given decrease in L)

1. *a higher share of workers employed in the agricultural sector,*
2. *a lower share of workers employed in manufacturing,*
3. *more intensive use of intermediate inputs in agriculture*

Bibliography

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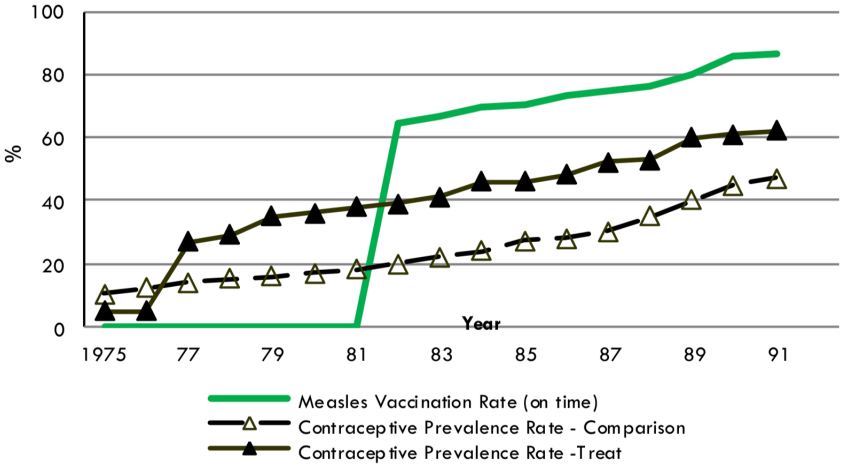
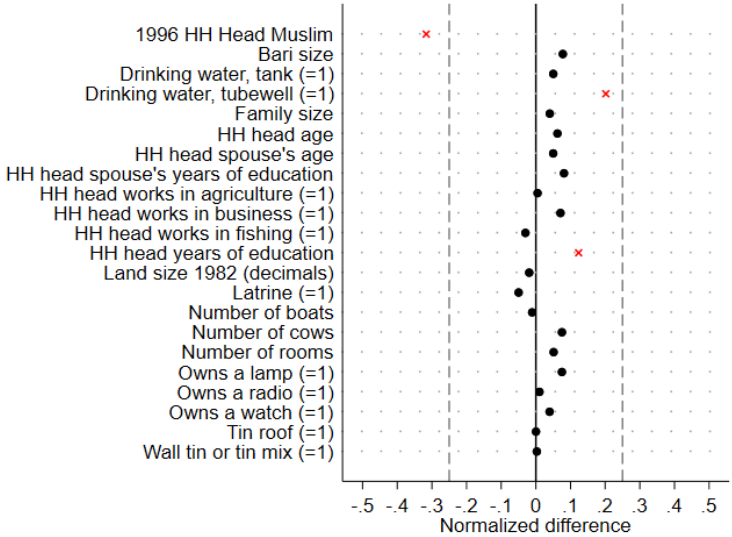
Program Rollout Succeeded

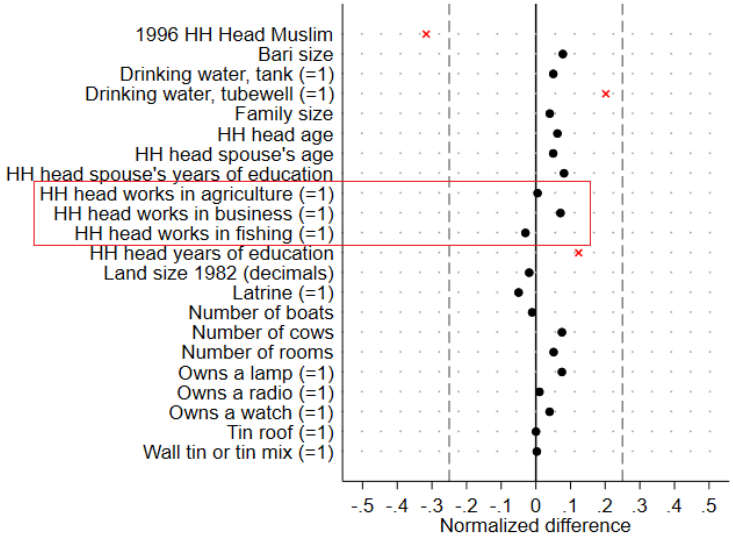
Phillips et al. 1984; Koenig et al. 1990, 1991; icddbr,b 2007; Joshi and Schultz 2013



Baseline Balance (in 1974) between Treatment and Control Households



Baseline Balance (in 1974) between Treatment and Control Households



Effect of MCH-FP on HH Sectoral Employment Composition - 1996

	(1) Dummy: Work in agr.	(2) Dummy: Ever worked in agr.	(3) Total earnings agr.
Treated	0.04	0.01	386.57
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(403.71)
% chg. rel. to mean	6.7	1.3	16.0
Mean	0.54	0.63	2412
Baseline controls	Y	Y	Y
Embankment controls	Y	Y	Y
Observations	2580	2580	2580

Notes: The table presents estimates of the effect of the MCH-FP on 1996 outcomes at the MHSS1 household-level. Standard errors are clustered by pre-program village. Agricultural employment is defined based on occupation codes (=1 if agriculturist, agricultural laborer, or fisherman). *, **, and *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.