

Impact of Migration as a Mitigation Strategy on Consumption: Evidence from post 2010 Floods in Pakistan

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Due to climate change, the frequency of covariate shocks, such as floods, is on the rise in Pakistan. It affects the livelihood and consumption patterns of people and thus contribute in reducing household welfare. The 2010 floods of Pakistan affected the lives of more than 20 million people, the total damage caused was estimated to be USD 9.7 billion. It is very important to evaluate the effectiveness of one of the most common voluntary mitigation strategies adopted by households i.e. temporary migration to ascertain empirically, if it is contributing in household welfare and whether it can be supported by the government by means of public policy. This study aims at evaluating temporary migration as a voluntary mitigation strategy adopted by the households to smoothen consumption. The estimation is made by means of two-stage least squares using instrumental variable (number of relatives residing in the same province excluding those living in the same district/village) by using one-year cross-sectional data of Round 1, IFPRI survey conducted in 2012. The results show that temporary migration as a voluntary mitigation strategy to floods has negligible impact on household consumption.