

EFFECT OF MARRIAGE AND FERTILITY ON FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN INDIA:EVIDENCE FROM NFHS-4

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ABSTRACT

An extensive literature in labor economics recognizes that female labor force participation is closely associated with her family decisions such as marriage and fertility. This paper attempts to examine the impacts of marriage and fertility on Female labor force participation (FLFP) in Indian context and also tries to explore if women of different profession get affected differently from their fertility choices. Using the NFHS-4 dataset (2015-16), bivariate probit models are estimated taking into account the endogeneity of variables such as marriage and fertility. The results indicate that married women have lower probability of participating in the labor force. Also, married women's fertility has a significant negative effect on their labor force participation as women with more than two kids have lower probability of participating in the labor force. However it was also found that women with more than two kids are more likely to be employed in the professional category rather than non-professional counterparts.

Keywords: FLFP; Marriage; fertility; bivariate probit model

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