

Garment Workers and Garment Factories in Bangladesh

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Garment sector employment in Bangladesh



Garment sector jobs have led women to delay marriage and childbearing, and raised girls' education levels (Heath and Mobarak 2015)

But factory-level heterogeneity is important



Estimating factory-level heterogeneity

For worker i in factory f at time t :

$$y_{ift} = \alpha_i + \gamma_f + f(\text{experience}_{ift}) + \varepsilon$$

- y_{ift} 's: wages, measures of working conditions
- Estimated variance of $\hat{\gamma}_f$ versus $\hat{\alpha}_i$ informative of industry-wide variance in outcomes

But...

- Data intensive in best of cases. Vast majority of evidence from US and Europe.
- In Bangladesh, no systemically administrative data (and probably can't trust factories' reports anyway)
- So use a household survey
 - ▶ Wage and factory history of 991 garment workers
 - ▶ Collected by me and Mushfiq Mobarak in 2009
 - ▶ Matched to the 911 factories they have worked in
- Currently working on clustering types of factories and workers to use data more efficiently