

▶ Labor Market Insights in the Wake of COVID-19 Pandemic and School Closures

Paper discussion at Philippines Institute
Development Studies webinar

► Overall comment

Studying labour market impact of COVID-19

Resilience to shocks

Identify shortcomings and derive policy recommendations

Clearly identifiable shock

But

Not the usual shock – care required to generalize results

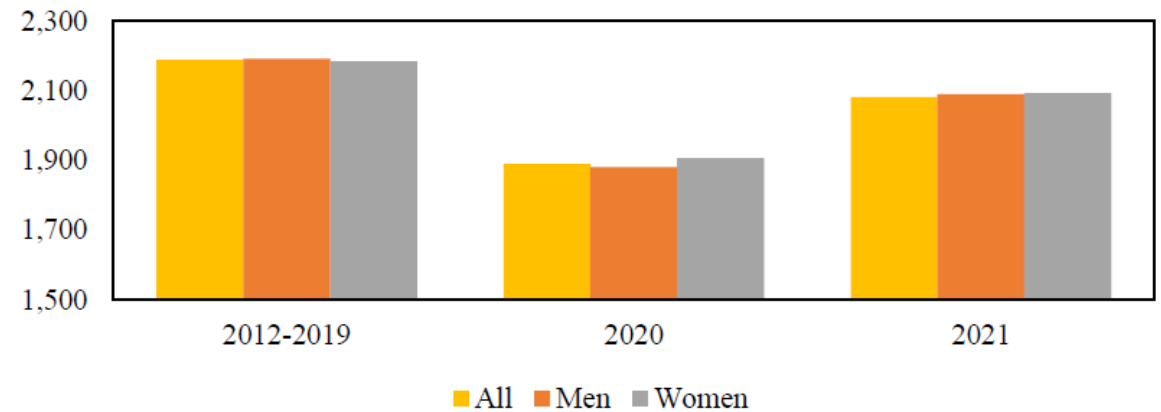
► Paper “Where have workers gone since the pandemic?”

Average hours of work same for men and women? (Figure 3)

- Employed women have slightly higher weekly hours in Philippines
- ILO data: Gender gap in LFPR

→ Women have 2/3 of total hours of men

Figure 3. Average annual hours of work per person



Source: Authors' estimates using several rounds of the Labor Force Survey.

► Extensive and intensive margins during COVID-19 crisis

Intensive margin more prevalent in Philippines

Paper hardly discusses underlying reasons or potential policy implications

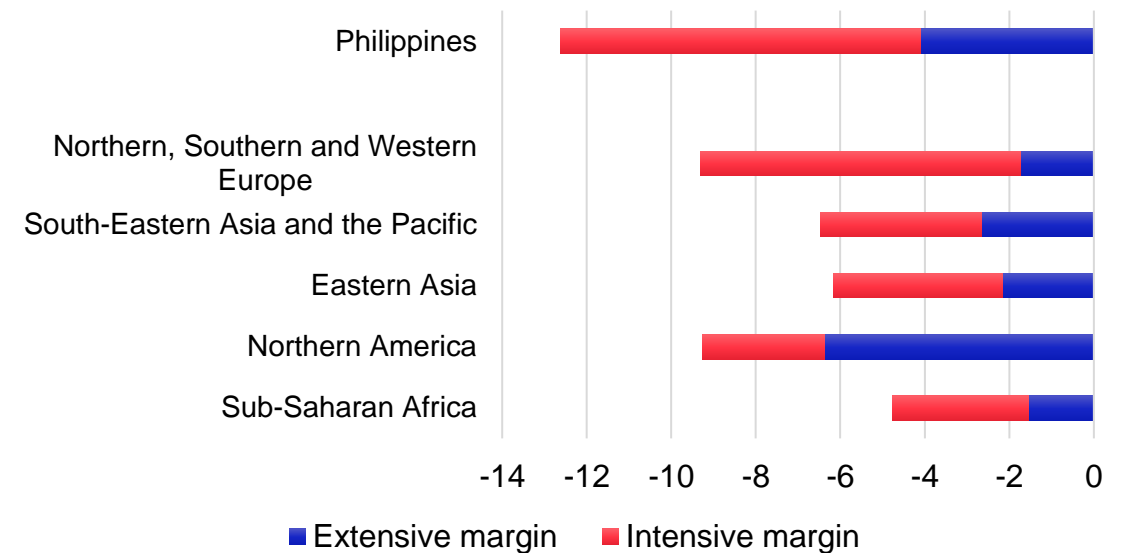
Experience in line with many other countries

Broaden literature review

Institutions matter

Employment relations matter: workers keep their “job” even without hours or pay

Relative change in hours worked per population (15+), 2020



► Employment reallocation

Asymmetric job losses or relocation?

Contact-intensive jobs more affected

Workers did not switch occupation or sector

Lack of dynamism in 2020 not a policy problem

Longer-term impact

Is relocation 2019-22 larger than 2016-19?

Back to the roots in employment structure

Drop in paper's relocation index in 2020

Structure in 2020 closer to structure in 2017

Agriculture increased as a share

Look at annual change to investigate 2020

Quarterly change might face seasonality problem

► Paper “School closure and parental labor supply”

With school closures, women drop out of work, men don't

Economically significant?

No significant effect on hours of work

Not enough flexibility for part time?

► Questions and suggestions

School closure index

Overlap of school closure period and LFS quarter?

Regional variation in school closures?

Collinearity of school closures and quarantine index?

Estimation methodology

More interaction terms? For example househelper

Estimate longer time period